

# Herald INTERNATIONAL Tribune

PUBLISHED WITH THE NEW YORK TIMES AND THE WASHINGTON POST

The World's Daily Newspaper

R

Paris, Friday, November 14, 1997

No. 35,678

TODAY:  
LE JOURNAL

## Asian Turmoil To 'Mute' U.S. Export Growth, Greenspan Says

Fed Chairman's Warning Leads Many Economists to Predict A Slowdown in the Economy

By Erik Ipsen  
International Herald Tribune

NEW YORK — The chairman of the U.S. Federal Reserve Board, Alan Greenspan, warned Thursday that although the direct impact of Asia's financial turmoil on the American economy had so far been modest, it "can be expected not to be negligible."

In testimony before a congressional committee, he said the Asian crisis did not "threaten prosperity" in the United States. But he said that, depending on the extent of an "inevitable" slowdown in growth in Asia, "the growth of our exports will tend to be muted," cutting into corporate profits.

Mr. Greenspan also cautioned that there could be indirect effects on the U.S. real economy from countries, such as Japan, that compete even more extensively with the economies in the Asian region.

The U.S. Treasury secretary warns Japan that its banking system is greatly imperiled. Page 13.

Mr. Greenspan said that what he found most troublesome was the rapid spread of the crisis beyond the borders of Southeast Asia. "This phenomenon illustrates the interdependencies in today's world economy and financial systems," he said.

As the Fed's chairman spoke, some private-sector economists began lowering their forecasts for U.S. growth. But on the other hand, Mr. Greenspan said, Asia's turmoil was reducing the likelihood of accelerating inflation in the United States.

The forces that have emerged out of the Southeast Asian difficulties are imparting a disinflationary effect on the United States and others. Mr. Greenspan told the House of Representatives Banking Committee, although he acknowledged that the effect was not "dominant or overwhelming."

He also offered reassuring words for Asia, saying that setbacks in rapidly developing countries occurred "from time to time," and insisted that there was "no reason" above-average growth rates in the region could not be rekindled in time.

Mr. Greenspan revised an earlier statement that only 4 percent of America's exports were sold in the Southeast Asian markets where the crisis took root in July, saying, now that the crisis has now grown to engulf other Asian economies such as Hong Kong and Taiwan, that those markets accounted for "an additional 12 percent of American exports."

Deputy Treasury Secretary Lawrence Summers, who

See ECONOMY, Page 7

## Republicans Withhold Funds for UN and IMF

Step Is Reprisal for Clinton Abortion Stance

By Eric Pianin and Thomas W. Lippman  
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — Republican leaders, frustrated by the administration's unwillingness to compromise on an international family planning and abortion issue, are retaliating by stripping a foreign spending bill of authority to reorganize the State Department, to pay \$819 million in back dues to the United Nations, and to issue a credit line to the IMF.

The House ratified the action early Thursday morning by a vote of 333 to 76. Rejection of the UN funding package marks a serious defeat for the Clinton administration and for Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, who regards the Washington's debt to the United Nations as a threat to American influence there.

"I am concerned," Mrs. Albright said in a speech here Wednesday, "about the fact that there is a very real possibility that Congress will adjourn this week without approving legislation we need to fund important aspects of our foreign policy, including programs we need to reorganize the Department of State, contribute to international financial institutions, and pay our arrears at the UN."

"Can you imagine," she added, "while we're asking the UN to be the first in our discussions about how to make the Iraqis comply with weapons inspections, that we are actually debating about whether we should pay back our dues at the UN?"

Mrs. Albright has made payment of the UN arrears one of her highest priorities.

Another casualty of the congressional action is the administration's request for a \$3.5 billion credit line for the International Monetary Fund that could be used to help stabilize the currencies of Southeast Asian countries. Instability in the Asian markets contributed to the global stock market tumbles late last month.

Later Thursday, the Senate passed a \$13 billion foreign aid bill after Republicans dropped restrictions on overseas family planning opposed by President Bill Clinton, but also barred \$3.5 billion for the International Monetary Fund and \$926 million for the dues owed to the United Nations.

## Confrontation Builds as Baghdad Defies UN



President Bill Clinton speaking at the White House on Iraq's decision to expel U.S. members of the UN weapons inspection team; the Iraqi deputy prime minister, Tariq Aziz, taking a cigar pause at the UN.



## U.S. Arms Inspectors Ordered to Leave Iraq

By Barbara Crossette  
New York Times Service

UNITED NATIONS, New York — Throwing down a direct challenge to the United States and the United Nations, Iraq on Thursday ordered American arms inspectors to leave the country immediately.

The UN responded within hours to the Iraqis, announcing that it would withdraw all its monitors rather than comply with the Iraqi demands. Only a skeletal staff of technicians will be left behind to take care of equipment and helicopters.

President Bill Clinton called the Iraqi decision to expel the American inspectors an unacceptable challenge to the international community, and the chief U.S. delegate to the United Nations predicted "grave consequences."

U.S. officials again did not rule out military action, but they put the emphasis on working diplomatically through the Security Council, which told Iraq on Wednesday that it could not choose who takes part in the UN teams.

Washington's hopes for Arab coalition dim. Page 7.

Iraq says the inspection teams have become an instrument of U.S. policy, deliberately obstructing Baghdad's attempts to win a reprieve from UN sanctions.

Mr. Clinton, after meeting with his National Security Council on Thursday morning for nearly two hours, said he would pursue the issue "in a very determined way."

"Iraq's announcement this morning to expel the Americans from the inspection team is clearly unacceptable and a challenge to the international community," he said.

"It is important to the safety of the world they continue their work," he said.

The UN asked the Iraqis to allow the six remaining Americans to leave on the commission's evacuation flight Friday. But the chief UN weapons inspector, Richard Butler, said that Iraq had refused the request and insisted that they depart Thursday.

He said the Americans and "a few others" left late Thursday by road for a seven-hour drive across the desert to the Jordanian border and an additional four hours on to Amman.

In an atmosphere of crisis that gripped UN headquarters Thursday for the first time in this latest confrontation with President Saddam Hussein, Mr. Butler ordered U-2 surveillance planes to continue flying, in defiance of an Iraqi threat to shoot at them.

Apart from those high-altitude flights and the functioning of automatic sensors and cameras that can be monitored from a distance, the UN inspection system that has destroyed more Iraqi weapons than American-led forces did in the Gulf War in 1991 will halt for the first time since then.

"I think it's an outrageous and irresponsible action on the part of the Iraqis," Bill Richardson, the chief U.S. representative at the UN, said after he returned from a White House meeting on the Iraqi order to the United Nations Special Commission.

"The United States strongly supports Ambassador Butler's decision to pull out a strong majority of the UNSCOM personnel," Mr. Richardson said, referring to the disarmament commission. "We think it's critically important that the Iraqis guarantee the safety of those remaining behind."

Mr. Richardson said that Iraq had violated the UN Charter and that "there are going to be some serious consequences."

"We are going to discuss this issue with our allies," he said. "That's the first step."

But the coalition that formed after Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in 1990 and fought together in the war that followed is shaky at best, with almost no government except Britain's standing beside the United States.

The Security Council voted unanimously Wednesday to impose travel bans on Iraqi officials and demand that Baghdad withdraw the threat to expel Americans. But several key members — Russia, France and China — all made it clear that they were not condoning war.

Egypt, reflecting disquiet about both the endless embargo on Iraq and the Arab world's dissatisfaction with Washington's Middle East policies, also voted against Iraq with considerable reluctance this week.

Secretary-General Kofi Annan, who at political risk to himself sent three envoys to Iraq last week to "give Baghdad a ladder to climb down on," said in a statement Thursday that he regretted that diplomatic efforts had not been successful.

"The matter is now in the hands of the Security Council," he said.

The immediate concern is whether President Saddam will use the absence of weapons monitors to produce or assemble

## A Surge of Threats to Americans As U.S. Brings Terrorists to Justice

Closing a Chapter On N.Y. Bombing

By Blaine Harden  
Washington Post Service

NEW YORK — Ramzi Ahmed Yousef, an electrical engineer who prosecutors said masterminded the World Trade Center bombing because he "wanted to make Americans feel terror," has been found guilty of conspiracy in the 1993 bombing.

While the verdict closes the last major chapter in the four-year bombing investigation, federal officials said there were still a number of loose threads that had not yet been tied together, including the continuing hunt for an accomplice who prosecutors said mixed chemicals for the bomb across the Hudson River in Jersey City.

Investigators said that Mr. Yousef, while clearly a mastermind of the plot, may not be the only individual in on its planning. They say that his funding before the explosion and his extensive fugitive travels afterward suggest that he may have been sponsored by countries that the United States has labeled as supporting terrorism, such as Syria, Libya or Iran, or by some other as-yet unidentified terrorist group.

After three days of deliberation, a federal jury late Wednesday accepted the prosecution's claim that Mr. Yousef, who is of uncertain nationality, and a Pakistani accomplice, Eyad Ismoil, plotted to kill a quarter million people by blowing up the 110-story twin towers in Manhattan.

Sentencing is expected early next year; both men could face life terms.

In Washington, the State Depart-

See VERDICT, Page 4

Warnings Follow Pakistan Slayings

By Kenneth J. Cooper  
Washington Post Service

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan — Americans working in the port city of Karachi are taking security precautions in the wake of the killing of four U.S. oil company workers and a Pakistani driver.

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif telephoned President Bill Clinton to pledge aggressive action to find the gunmen, and the State Department warned Americans to postpone non-essential trips to Pakistan. "The security situation in Karachi deteriorated

Karachi slayings shock victims' colleagues in Houston. Page 4.

seriously" with the rush-hour ambush of the four employees of Union Texas Petroleum Co., it said.

The FBI has sent a team of agents to Pakistan to investigate the killings, despite concern that they might fall into a trap set to avenge the conviction of Mir Aimal Kasi of the 1993 fatal shootings of two employees outside CIA headquarters near Washington.

Mr. Kasi, originally indicted under the name Kansi, was convicted Monday of the killings, and the jury was hearing evidence Thursday before beginning deliberations on a sentence.

Two previously unknown groups separately took responsibility for the killings, but an official of the U.S. Embassy in Islamabad indicated that the claims were not considered credible. A

See KARACHI, Page 4

Calls in Malaysia Vow More Killing

Compiled by Our Staff From Reuters

KUALA LUMPUR — The U.S. Embassy here said Thursday in a notice to the American community that it had received two telephone calls threatening harm to U.S. citizens in Malaysia.

"One of the callers specifically threatened to kill four Americans in Malaysia," the embassy said Thursday, a day after four U.S. businessmen were shot and killed in Pakistan.

But Prime Minister Mahathir bin Mohamad reassured Americans that they faced no physical threat.

"I don't believe the threat will be followed by action," a spokesman for Mr. Mahathir quoted the prime minister as saying.

"Malaysians are not violent people," he was quoted as saying. "Malaysians don't do such things."

But the prime minister said the telephone threats reflected a feeling of anger shared by some Malaysians.

The U.S. Embassy said it was unable to assess the credibility of the threats, but told Americans to "maintain a high level of security awareness."

The number of Americans working in Malaysia is estimated in the thousands, and hundreds of American tourists visit sites in Malaysia each week.

Mr. Mahathir has come under criticism from U.S. politicians for speaking of a Jewish conspiracy behind the Malaysian currency crisis. The prime minister later said he was only repeating what some people were saying, and did not share the belief himself.

A resolution by the U.S. Congress calling on him either to apologize or

See THREAT, Page 4



'ABSOLUTELY NO EVIDENCE' — FBI's TWA Flight 800 inquiry found no sign of a crime, a letter by Assistant Director James Kallstrom says. Page 2.

## AGENDA

### Russia-Iran Missile Link Again Reported

LONDON (Reuters) — Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel said Thursday that Russia was still passing ballistic-missile technology to Iran, which he said was just a year away from acquiring a long-range nuclear-missile capability.

He told a meeting of the House of Commons, "If the supply of Russian

technology is not stopped, then within a year Iran would become self-sufficient and would be able to create those missiles on its own."

Russia has repeatedly denied charges from Israel and Washington that it is passing missile know-how to Tehran. But Mr. Netanyahu said the flow of Russian technology was continuing.

### NATO Lowers the Bill

A NATO study on the cost of absorbing the Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland has concluded that the U.S. estimates were much too high and that any extra burden for NATO budgets should amount to less than \$2 billion over the next decade. Page 7.

The Dollar			
	Thursday 4 P.M.	previous close	
New York	1.7258	1.7175	
DM	1.6988	1.7045	
Pound	1.6988	1.7045	
Yen	125.875	126.525	
FF	5.7785	5.7572	
The Dow			
	Thursday close	previous close	
Dow	7487.76	7401.32	
change	+86.44		
S&P 500			
	Thursday 4 P.M.	previous close	
S&P 500	917.05	906.04	
change	+11.01		
Books	Page 11		
Crossword	Page 22		
Opinion	Pages 8-9		
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## In Vietnam, Where English Is King, France Declares a Revolution

By Craig R. Whitney  
New York Times Service

HANOI — Under siege in Africa, intimidated on the Internet, fighting for its life in Indochina, the embattled French language will rally its defenders this week in Vietnam, a former colony of France where fewer than half of one percent of the 75 million Vietnamese still speak French.

"Everybody wants to learn English to get a job," said Duong Bay, who got his at the Foreign Ministry, by pursuing English studies at the university here. Even Nguyen Lan, a 90-year-old professor who

compiled the leading Vietnamese-French dictionary, has calling cards in Vietnamese and English, not French — his secretary did it that way without asking him, he said. Most people here stopped using French when Ho Chi Minh defeated the French Army in 1954.

From Friday to Sunday, President Jacques Chirac, who on Wednesday started the second visit to Vietnam since 1954 by a French chief of state, and leaders of more than 30 other countries, including some with only a passing acquaintance with French, will meet here to fight for the Francophone way in (to some of them) depressingly Anglophone world.

There's nothing strange, they say, about holding a Francophone summit in a place where French is hardly spoken.

"Even though the percentage of Vietnamese who speak the language fluently is not very great, quality is more important than quantity," said Pham Khac Lam, a fluent French speaker who heads a committee dealing with the millions of Vietnamese who live abroad.

To the French, this summit conference appears to be a kind of *haut geste* well worth their 70 percent of the \$17 million cost of holding the meeting. For if English is the global medium of

commerce and communication, French is the message itself to Francophones.

The "Conference of Chiefs of State and Government of Countries Having French in Common," to give this meeting its formal name, includes representatives of 44 member countries and 2 associate members, Portuguese-speaking Sao Tome and Principe and Romanian-speaking Moldavia.

Some members, like France, Ivory Coast, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Haiti, actually use French as an official language; in

See PARLEZ-VOUS, Page 7



## Baffled Bushmanland / Where Tradition Turns to Dust

## Good Intentions Breed Despair

By Donald G. McNeil Jr.  
New York Times Service

**M**AKURI VILLAGE, Namibia — "If the kudu barks when you hit it, you will eat tonight," said Tomas Xaixae. "It means you hit the stomach. But if you hit the leg, you must follow it for two days."

Mr. Xaixae — the X's represent clicks in the Khoisan language — can track a kudu antelope for days as it slowly weakens from the poison on his fragile arrow. He is a hunter in the traditions of his ancestors, who have lived uninterruptedly on this land for 40,000 years.

Mr. Xaixae also used his tracking skills in the South African Army, for which he tracked black guerrillas so they could be killed by white soldiers. He would track game for foreign hunters who he has heard hire Khoisan, or Bushmen, as the natives of southwestern Africa were long known, but he does not know how to meet them.

Meantime, he tends some cows that his village owns. He is supposed to be overseeing a "self-help project," a tourist campsite under a huge baobab near his village, but rabbits have shredded its water pipe, the outhouse is tipping into its pit and Mr. Xaixae has the disconcerting habit of appearing at 7 A.M. sometimes with three or four friends, to stare at visitors' breakfasts, hinting in Afrikaans, "We're very hungry."

He also catches cigarettes and sweets, and spends much of his day like the rest of the 20 people in his village, lying around in broken-down huts doing not much of anything.

Such is the plight of the "unspoiled children of nature" whom tourists drive hundreds of kilometers to see.

While Khoisan in other countries are under pressure to find city or farm jobs or simply move away, this corner of Namibia is set aside for them, and inhabitants of its 37 villages have legal rights to hunt and gather wild foods like the bitter melons that dot the landscape like green softballs.

But a week spent driving its sandy tracks shows it to be a battleground fought over by competing interests — the government, tourism promoters, greedy neighbors and a foundation started by American filmmakers. The group with the least say is the vulnerable, gentle, baffled Khoisan. With the fading of their way of life, they have been relegated to the status of curiosities in a game park.

There are only a few thousand in the 5,200 square kilometers (2,000 square miles) of Eastern Bushmanland — up to 50 in each village and more in the mud huts of Tsumkwe, the regional capital. Most have lived here all their lives; a few have climbed in over the fence from Botswana, after pressure to leave ancestral lands that are now national parks.

In theory, they are supposed to live as they always have, gathering roots and hunting with tiny bows and the long flexible spears they push down rabbit holes. But Bushmanland is not a closed biosphere, and everyone cheats on the dream.

The Khoisan cheat by using horses, dogs and guns. Several villages denied owning horses but a quick climb up the scaffolds over their wells usually produced the sight of one or two grazing in the bush.

Arno Oosthuysen, owner of a 12-bed tourist lodge in Tsumkwe, said of the Khoisan: "In the south, they've wiped out all the eland and giraffe. With horses, you can kill anything. Soon — nothing left."

The inhabitants of nearby Hereroland cheat by driving their cattle into Bushmanland, eating up the grazing that supports antelopes. After a series of articles in a national newspaper, the government built a fence; it excludes cattle but stops game migration, too.

The government "cheats" out of civic duty by distributing drought relief and social security payments to the aged. Mr. Oosthuysen complains that the cash has drawn in "human hyenas." A pickup filled with beer and cane liquor now trails the



Donald G. McNeil Jr./The New York Times

**In Deexuha, Bushmanland, the local Khoisan men entertain tourists by changing into loincloths, picking up their skin quivers, bows and spears, and demonstrating their hunting skills.**

settles, who with his wife, Claire, lived here on and off for many years starting in 1951. Fluent in the local language and now something of a legend himself, Mr. Marshall pushed for the Khoisan to shift to cattle-herding, and he had many of the local wells drilled.

"Anything that rests on this fantasy that people can still live by hunter-gathering is bound to flop," he maintains.

But under his successors, the foundation split ideologically between cattle proponents and tourism proponents, and Mr. Marshall now calls it wasteful and disorganized. He was here in October to record new sound for his 1974 National Geographic document-

monthly government pay van, he said, and many mud huts in Tsumkwe are now illegal taverns. Alcoholism, petty theft and prostitution have soared, he said.

The Nyae-Nyae Foundation, which has quarters in the village of Baraka, "cheats" by encouraging Khoisan to raise cattle and vegetables. Its founder argues that the old ways became unsustainable 30 years ago, and starvation threatened. But cattle-raising helps destroy the old ways. Herders need lion-proof pens and a permanent water source, so the Khoisan never migrate, and quickly exhaust wild foods.

And Mr. Oosthuysen "cheats" too by encouraging the myth of the wild Bushman for dollars.

He has picked Deexuha, at the end of a sand road passable only with four-wheel drive, as his model village. The flattened tin cans and sugar sacks that litter other villages have been picked up and the huts are neat. Villagers spend hours making curries of beads, ostrich eggs and the shells of small tortoises.

When a truck with tourists arrives, Deexuha perks up. Three wizened men in brown overalls get up. "We'll put on our Bushman gear," says one, and they change into beaded loincloths. Their skin quivers, bows and spears appear, and they lead visitors on a fascinating two-hour trek across the veld, hunting rabbits, checking snares, making fire with two sticks and weaving rope out of a spiky plant called "mother-in-law's tongue."

They each get about \$12 and village women have sold as much as \$350 worth of curries in a day.

"European hunters come to watch them," Mr. Oosthuysen said. "They think Bushmen are the greatest hunters in the world."

The Nyae-Nyae Foundation may be the most powerful force in the area — and the most controversial. Its officials sometimes refer to all Bushmanland as "our resources," as if they owned it.

It was started by John Marshall, an anthropologist and film-maker in Cambridge, Massachu-

setts, who with his wife, Claire, lived here on and off for many years starting in 1951. Fluent in the local language and now something of a legend himself, Mr. Marshall pushed for the Khoisan to shift to cattle-herding, and he had many of the local wells drilled.

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ary "Bushman of the Kalahari," but he was also criticizing the foundation, whose board he sits on.

**I**TS VILLAGE, Baraka, is a strange sight. At the east end, Khoisan live in split-log houses with glass windows built as tourist cabins but never used for that. In the middle is a classroom, a grocery and a workshop where trucks are fixed and mechanics taught, but it is littered with piles of rusting plows and new donkey carts with flat tires. At the west end are cabins with solar panels and running water, occupied by white staff members and consultants. A row of new Toyota Land Cruisers is parked there.

"A million-dollar xoxana," said Mr. Marshall, using the word for a circle of huts. He shakes his head in disgust. He wants the foundation's overseas donor money spent on pumps and fences, and to teach farming.

Residents of other villages, like Xaixae, are more scathing, saying the foundation ignores their plight when elephants smash their wind-pumps or they need advice on managing campgrounds, but expects them to hand over tourist income for "administration expenses."

Asked about the complaints, Simon Truman, a technical adviser, angrily answered: "I'm one of those white consultants, and I'm quite insulted. I don't think anything of working a 12-hour day, repairing water pumps or driving people to hospital, and that's not even in my job description. There are only three whites permanently on staff, and they don't earn half of what they could at home."

Moses Xoma, Nyae-Nyae's manager in Baraka, says everyone needs to compromise, including tourists. "People romanticize this area," he said. "I had one lady tell me she wanted to be a Bushman. I said, 'I'm a Bushman.' She said, 'No, a wild Bushman, with a tail.' We have to educate them. We need to make it clear: if you come, yes, you'll see people hunting — and you'll see people herding cattle. We don't live as we did 200 years ago."

## At Last, UN Heads Out On the Road to Reform

By Barbara Crossette  
New York Times Service

**UNITED NATIONS, New York** — The General Assembly has given its approval to a package of UN administrative reforms proposed by Secretary-General Kofi Annan.

The action Wednesday was the first step in a complex process of change that is likely to stretch over months, and none of the measures address the demands being made by some members of the U.S. Congress.

But the willingness of the assembly to begin moving on reform was welcomed by Bill Richardson, the U.S. representative at the United Nations.

"Hopefully, the success of reform will mean the U.S. Congress will finally give us our money to pay the arrears," he said after the proposals were approved. The United States owes the organization more than \$1 billion.

UN officials are optimistic that the 185-member General Assembly has overcome the inertia and suspicion that threatened to stall Mr. Annan's program, and will be better prepared to tackle the more difficult proposals that lie ahead.

"We have not made big headlines," but we have certainly made headway," said Hennadi Udovenko, president of the assembly this year. Mr. Udovenko is foreign minister of Ukraine.

Even so, delegations as diverse as Cuba and Swaziland took the floor to say that the five-week process of debate leading to approval had been "rushed."

The measures approved Wednesday were actions that Mr. Annan can take within the powers he has as secretary-general. The only remaining challenges

that could affect them would be obstacles raised by the assembly committee dealing with the organization's budget.

Next to be considered by the assembly is a package of proposals that Mr. Annan cannot put into effect without what amounts to legislation by the assembly.

In an address to the assembly, Mr. Annan made a special appeal for support for his plan to create the post of deputy secretary-general. As envisaged by Mr. Annan, a deputy would share the ceremonial and administrative duties of the office and fill in when the secretary-general is on trips abroad.

Some nations have expressed concern that this arrangement would give too much authority to an unelected official outside the control of the Security Council and General Assembly.

The measures that won approval included the creation of a senior management group, or cabinet, to serve as the secretary-general's council of advisers and to coordinate the work of an organization where departments and agencies have operated as independent fiefs, with little communication among them.

Also approved was the re-establishment of a Department of Disarmament Affairs in New York. Most of the disarmament work of the United Nations is now done in Geneva, where the standing Conference on Disarmament is based.

The assembly also approved the establishment of an international crime center in Vienna to combine the work of UN agencies dealing with narcotics and crime prevention. Mr. Annan has also consolidated human rights activities in Geneva under his new high commissioner for human rights, Mary Robinson, former president of Ireland.

## FBI Closes TWA 800 Inquiry: 'Absolutely' No Sign of a Crime

By David Rohde  
New York Times Service

**NEW YORK** — The FBI has formally ended its criminal investigation into the 1996 crash of Trans World Airlines Flight 800, saying that it had "found absolutely no evidence" of a criminal act, according to a letter the agency's top investigator in the case sent to the families of crash victims.

Law enforcement officials said Wednesday night that the letter, signed by James Kallstrom, assistant director of the FBI in charge of the New York office, was sent so that the families would not be surprised when the agency made its official announcement of the end of the criminal investigation Tuesday.

A separate investigation by the National Transportation Safety Board into whether mechanical failure caused the explosion will continue, officials said.

In the letter, Mr. Kallstrom said agents had interviewed more than 7,000 people, conducted extensive forensic tests and had undertaken "the largest aircraft reconstruction mock-up in commercial aviation history" without finding any evidence of criminal wrongdoing. "Every lead has been covered, all possible avenues of investigation exhaustively explored and every resource of the United

States government has been brought to bear in this investigation," he wrote.

Although the FBI has said repeatedly in recent months that it had no evidence that the Boeing 747 was knocked down by a bomb or missile, the letter was a stark reminder of how far the investigation had come since the night of July 17, 1996, when the jet burst into a fireball, killing all 230 people on board and scattering wreckage in the Atlantic Ocean.

At the time, few could believe that the cause could be anything but sabotage. The explosion, which occurred only 13 minutes after Flight 800 took off from Kennedy International Airport, was eerily reminiscent of the 1988 bombing of a Pan Am jet over Scotland.

In the early days after the crash, relatives of the victims criticized investigators for failing to advise them of developments. The letter from Mr. Kallstrom, which was mailed to families overseas on Monday and to those in the United States on Wednesday, seemed designed to avoid that sort of criticism.

"They did the best they can," said Richard Penzer, of Lawrence, New York, whose sister died in the crash.

Safety board investigators say that an explosion of jet fuel fumes in the center fuel tank destroyed the jet, but they have yet to determine what ignited the fumes.

## TRAVEL UPDATE

## Air France Keeps Flying

**PARIS** — A strike call by Air France pilots went largely ignored Thursday, with less than 10 percent of flights canceled, company officials said.

Airport officials said fog over Paris proved more disruptive than the strike, with most internal flights delayed for up to 45 minutes. Air France canceled 4 percent of its flights from Charles de Gaulle Airport and 9 percent from Orly Airport. London was the only non-domestic destination affected. (AFP, Reuters)

## Delta Expansion Is Seen

**PARIS (AFP)** — Delta Air Lines plans to expand its European presence, opening five trans-Atlantic routes in 1998 and taking a stake

in Proteus, a French regional airline with links to Air France, press reports said Thursday. Delta will begin nonstop flights in March between John F. Kennedy Airport in New York and Stuttgart, Warsaw and Stockholm, adding nonstop flights to Barcelona and between Atlanta and Hamburg in May. The Wall Street Journal Europe said. It will give up its New York-Berlin and New York-Copenhagen routes, the paper said. The French newspaper Les Echos said Delta would take a 34 percent stake in Proteus.

Rebel activity in western Uganda has forced the closure of Ruwenzori National Park and Semeliki National Forest, and tour operators concerned over security have canceled many bookings, even far from the parks, the Uganda Wildlife Authority said. (AP)

## US Dollar Up or Down?

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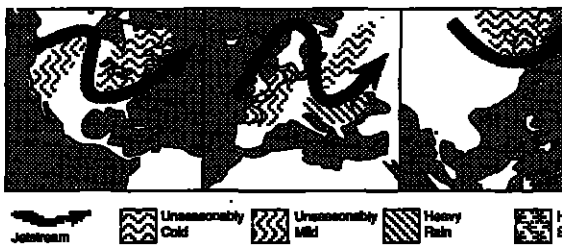
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Norway 080012241 Portugal 0800122248 Singapore 0800122248  
Spain 080012241 Sweden 0800122248 Switzerland 0800122248  
Taiwan 080012241 USA 0800122248

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## WEATHER

Forecast for Saturday through Monday, as provided by AccuWeather.



**North America** A storm will cause heavy rain in the Southeast on Saturday, then drier and rain from southern Italy. China this weekend. Mid-colder weather will move in Saturday to southeastern Beijing for early next week. That storm will produce a mix of rain and snow, ice and rain in the midlands from Sunday and Monday. Northeast Sunday, then it will turn much colder Sunday and Monday. Mid-colder weather will move in Saturday to southeastern Beijing for early next week. That storm will produce a mix of rain and snow, ice and rain in the midlands from Sunday and Monday. Northeast Sunday, then it will turn much colder Sunday and Monday. Mid-colder weather will move in Saturday to southeastern Beijing for early next week. That storm will produce a mix of rain and snow, ice and rain in the midlands from Sunday and Monday. Northeast Sunday, then it will turn much colder Sunday and Monday. Mid-colder weather will move in Saturday to southeastern Beijing for early next week. 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THE AMERICAS

# 150,000 Weapons, Set for Banning, Get Import Permits

By Elizabeth Shogren  
Los Angeles Times Service

WASHINGTON — White House officials are furious over their discovery that a "rogue operation" in the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms has accelerated approval of import permits for 150,000 modified assault weapons despite President Bill Clinton's clear intent to keep such guns out of the country, according to administration sources.

The permits were approved "in an expedited manner" by a group of agents who "knew full well that the weapons were all but banned by the president," a senior administration

official said.

The official noted that Mr. Clinton was on the verge of issuing an executive order barring imports of rapid-fire arms. The order is being drafted with the agency's help.

White House officials are "livid" about the permit approvals, which have complicated the already difficult process of developing a policy to stem the influx of the so-called copycat assault weapons. These foreign-made, rapid-fire arms — altered to get around the legal restrictions on imports of assault guns — are circulating in the United States by the thousands.

The guns that were hurriedly approved last month comprised

50,000 WUM-1s made in Romania and 100,000 MISRs made in Egypt. Both weapons are knockoffs of the Kalashnikov AK-47 assault rifle, an administration official said.

Officials at the Treasury Department, which has jurisdiction over the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, confirmed Wednesday that permits allowing dealers to import copycat weapons had been approved last month.

The approvals were brought to the attention of the department by a high-ranking official at the bureau, the Treasury official said.

"We are concerned about this matter," a senior Treasury Department official said. "We have a re-

view taking place to look at why these permits were approved. The concern comes from the fact that there was clearly a policy review taking place that should not have been a secret to any one."

The White House confirmed three weeks ago that the president was planning to issue a directive temporarily banning new import permits for approximately 30 versions of the modified assault weapons while the government studies whether they should be permanently banned on the grounds that they are unsuitable for sporting purposes.

Due in part to pressure from Congress, the White House has been studying the possibility of expand-

ing the temporary ban to prevent imports of weapons that have already been issued permits, administration officials said.

In the last year, the bureau has issued permits for about 600,000 weapons. However, the influx of weapons, while disturbing, is not as extensive as the permit numbers imply, administration officials cautioned.

The permits are given for the maximum number of allowable weapons and actual imports usually fall far short of that, a Treasury official said.

As of Monday there was no report that any of those 600,000 weapons had arrived in the United States.

POLITICAL NOTES

## Paula Jones Interrogated

WASHINGTON — President Bill Clinton's lawyers have interrogated Paula Corbin Jones under oath for the first time about her allegations that she was sexually harassed by Mr. Clinton when he was governor of Arkansas.

Ms. Jones was questioned during a closed-door deposition in Little Rock, Arkansas, as both sides gather evidence for the federal trial scheduled for May, but none of those involved would discuss the proceedings because of a gag order imposed by U.S. District Judge Susan Webber Wright.

Judging from pretrial documents, Mr. Clinton's lawyers were interested in grilling her about her version of events in a Little Rock hotel suite in May 1991, her ties to conservative groups out to damage the president and any possible financial motives she may have for pressing her case.

prosecutor to examine Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt's role in a decision to kill an Indian casino project, according to law enforcement officials.

The casino project was rejected in 1995 by Interior officials in Washington after rival tribes of casino operators hired a high-profile Democratic lobbyist, Patrick O'Connor. He had influential contacts with White House and Democratic Party officials.

Last year, after the decision, the tribes opposing the permit contributed \$230,000 to the Democratic Party. And since then, Republican senators investigating campaign finance abuses have themselves investigated the casino deal and suggested it was an instance in which government policy was made in return for a political donation.

In an appearance on Oct. 30 before a Senate investigating committee, Mr. Babbitt denied under oath that politics played a role in the casino decision. (NYT)

## Quote/Unquote

President Clinton as he signed the spending bill for education: "As much as any bill I have signed, as much as any bill the Congress has passed in recent years, this bill genuinely does fulfill our strategy of opportunity for all, responsibility from all, a community of all Americans." (AP)

## Casino Probe Nears Babbitt

WASHINGTON — Justice Department officials have urged Attorney General Janet Reno to extend an investigation that could lead to the appointment of an independent

# 'Fast-Track' Setback Imperils Trade Plan for Americas

By Anthony Faiola  
Washington Post Service

LIMA — When President Bill Clinton whisked through South America last month, he made free trade the crux of his agenda. He declared a new era of economic partnership with the region, insisting that he would make negotiations for a hemisphere-wide free-trading block the focus of the second Summit of the Americas, scheduled for next April.

But now that Mr. Clinton has failed to win from Congress what amounted to the power to negotiate trade agreements, South Americans have become more skeptical of his crusade. In some countries, particularly Chile — which Mr. Clinton had promised to make the next nation to participate in a free-trade accord — business executives and government officials expressed frustration and disappointment. They said they were losing faith that such an accord would ever be concluded.

Yet, in other South American countries there was indifference — and even applause from

trade protectionists — over the lack of U.S. congressional support for the president's position on trade. Those sentiments seemed strongest in Brazil, the region's industrial powerhouse, where there is growing opposition to the extension of a free-trade accord to Brazil and its trading partners in South America. Many Brazilians fear such an accord would only widen the trade deficit, a major factor in the country's brewing economic crisis.

"Nobody is happier about Clinton's failure than the protectionists in Brazil," said Marcus Nunes, a partner in MCM Consultants, a Sao Paulo-based economic research group.

The issue centers on Mr. Clinton's inability to win support for a piece of legislation — known as "fast-track" trade negotiation — which essentially gives the president the power to conclude trade agreements with foreign nations. With such authority, Congress can only vote yes or no on trade accords without tinkering with the language. South American nations, whose leaders already have such authority, have said they will not

sign free-trade agreements with the United States unless the White House has fast-track capability — which previously was enjoyed by every U.S. president since Gerald Ford.

During his trip to South America, Mr. Clinton called on leaders to head into serious negotiations to create a hemisphere-wide free-trading block by 2005 — something that had been agreed upon in theory at the first Americas' summit in 1994 in Miami.

But it appeared to many in South America that this time, Mr. Clinton came here promising more than he could deliver. Some analysts say the fast-track setback may mean an end to Mr. Clinton's vision for a Free Trade Association of the Americas, or at the very least, put the idea on the slow track for now.

"I think it puts America at a major disadvantage in negotiating free-trade agreements in the future," said Johannes Heiman, an economist at the United Nations' Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean in Santiago. "There is a lack of confidence now — an enormous disillusion."

That, however, does not mean that the idea of increased U.S. trade with Latin America should be buried, analysts say. The United States will not need the special authority Mr. Clinton is seeking from Congress to win smaller trade concessions — many of which have helped lift U.S. exports to Latin America to \$52 billion in 1996, double the figure of 1990.

"The U.S. is such a huge economy that once the idea of wider, trade treaties with the United States dissipates in South America, I think you'll find many smaller and creative agreements that will still mean increases in trade between the two regions," said Arturo Valenzuela, executive director of the Center for Latin American Studies at Georgetown University.

For now, however, that is little consolation to Chile, a country of 14 million that has eagerly awaited a promised free-trade agreement with the United States for the past three years. A special trading relationship with the United States was considered a way of acknowledging the advances Chile has made toward a thriving free-market economy in the 1990s.



ENVOY TO VATICAN — Lindy Boggs, a former longtime Louisiana congresswoman, talking the oath of office Thursday from Vice President Al Gore to become ambassador to the Vatican. She is surrounded by family members.

## Away From Politics

- A former Los Angeles Times executive has been accused of stealing \$800,000 by billing the newspaper for free-lance articles that were never written. Charles Boesch, 53, was scheduled to be arraigned Thursday. According to Deputy District Attorney Brent Collier, Mr. Boesch, a 34-year veteran at the Times, prepared fake invoices and article summaries over a four-year period and submitted them to the Times' accounting department for payment to outside accomplices. (AP)
- A woman carrying septuplets has made

it to her 30th week of pregnancy. Doctors in Des Moines, Iowa, say it raises hopes that Bobbi McCaughey's seven babies will be born healthy. (AP)

• The percentage of students defaulting on college tuition loans has declined, for the fifth consecutive year, the Education Department reported. The default rate is now 10.4 percent, half of what it was earlier this decade. (WP)

• Four men were drunk when they were killed by exhaust fumes from a running car in a closed garage, the police in Liberal, Kansas, said. Police had no idea why the men turned on the vehicle, but foul play was not suspected. (AP)

# Reprieve for Latin Refugees

## Congress Exempting Thousands From Deportation

By Eric Schmitt  
New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — Seeking to avert a possible political problem for Republicans, Congress is relaxing two important provisions in a 1996 law that threatened to uproot hundreds of thousands of immigrants living in the United States.

Lawmakers agreed in the waning days of this year's session to exempt thousands of refugees from civil wars in Central America from sweeping new deportation rules. As many as 150,000 Nicaraguans would receive the most generous gift handed out by members of Congress: automatic permanent residency.

In another change supported by the House speaker, Newt Gingrich, Congress is allowing hundreds of thousands of illegal immigrants who hope to gain permanent visas to stay in the United States instead of having to go home to file their applications.

Taken together with Congress's decision in August to restore benefits to legal immigrants that had been stripped away by the welfare law last year, the softened provisions in the immigration law mark a retreat by House and Senate Republican leaders, who are trying to burnish

their tainted image with immigrants in states with large populations of them, such as California and Florida.

While immigrant advocates generally praised the changes to the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996, they criticized lawmakers for exempting Cubans, Salvadorans, Nicaraguans, Guatemalans and some East Europeans from the new deportation rules but not thousands of Haitians who fled after a military coup in Haiti in 1991.

"My assumption is that immigrants of color have had

a very, very hard time," said Representative Carrie Meek, Democrat of Florida, whose Miami district has a large Haitian population. "It's discriminatory and it's unfair."

Deputy Attorney General Eric Holder Jr. promised Senator Carol Moseley-Braun, Democrat of Illinois, that the Immigration and Naturalization Service would not seek to deport Haitians for six months while Congress reconsidered an exemption for Haitians next year.

The two provisions are tucked into spending bills that the House and Senate are expected to approve by Friday.

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## ASIA/PACIFIC

## FBI Agents Go to Pakistan For Evidence But Fear Trap

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

WASHINGTON — The FBI has sent a team of agents to Pakistan to gather evidence on the killing of four American oil company employees in Karachi.

Their orders are not to conduct a full-scale terrorism investigation, because Attorney General Janet Reno has not certified that the slaying of the four men and their Pakistani driver was an act of terrorism.

"We just want to do everything we can to make sure that those responsible for this tragedy are brought to justice and that we work with Pakistani authorities in every way that is appropriate," Ms. Reno said Thursday.

She declined to comment when asked if the killings might have been linked to the murder conviction of a Pakistani immigrant in a Virginia court.

The agents were told to proceed cautiously. "There is a fear" that they might be in danger of falling into a trap set to avenge the conviction of Mir Aimal Kasi, in fatal shootings at CIA headquarters, a government official said.

"The fear is that the idea behind the shooting was to lure the FBI to Pakistan and attack them — that they will target the FBI for matching Kasi," said the official, who spoke on condition that he not be identified by name or agency.

FBI agents, working with CIA officers and State Department officials, arrested Mr. Kasi in Pakistan five months ago after a four-and-a-half-year manhunt. They flew him to a Virginia jail without a formal hearing after the arrest, which touched off anti-American protests in several Pakistani cities, including Karachi. He was indicted under the name Kansi, but has signed his statements Kasi.

### Jurors Under Armed Guard

Jurors deciding on life or death for Mr. Kasi spent Wednesday night under armed guard. The Associated Press reported from Fairfax, Virginia.

The judge in the murder trial decided Wednesday that the jury should be sequestered as a shield from publicity about the Karachi attack. No threats were made against the jury, said Jim Vickery, chief deputy sheriff for Fairfax County.

Sequestered jurors are not usually protected by armed guards. The jurors are allowed outside contact only under the supervision of a sheriff's deputy and deputies monitor all calls the jurors place or receive, Mr. Vickery said.

Jurors sent the judge a note on Monday that expressed fear for their safety, said a defense attorney, Richard Goemann. The exact contents of the note were not disclosed.

Mr. Kasi, 33, was found guilty of killing Frank Darling, 28, a Central Intelligence Agency communications analyst, and Lansing Bennett, 66, a CIA physician, and wounding three persons as they waited at a traffic light outside CIA headquarters in Langley, Virginia, on Jan. 25, 1993.

Mr. Goemann contends that if jurors are afraid, Mr. Kasi will be deprived of a fair trial.

Before the trial, Fairfax County spent \$1.5 million to improve security at the courthouse and adjoining police complex. Armed policemen have been positioned on roofs since the trial began.



A Karachi policeman guarding the site where four Americans were slain.

## KARACHI: Americans There Take Security Precautions After the Killings

Continued from Page 1

third group, Harkat ul Ansar, which the State Department has declared a terrorist organization, blamed unnamed groups seeking to destabilize Pakistan.

But security officials said that members of Harkat ul Ansar possibly carried out the fatal shooting to avenge the Kasi conviction.

The travel advisory also cited the conviction in New York on Wednesday of Ramzi Ahmed Yousef — who was extradited from Pakistan in 1995 — in the World Trade Center bombing. Both convictions, the State Department warned, "make Americans potential targets of retaliatory acts."

About two dozen American

businessmen checked out of luxury hotels early in Karachi Wednesday night. Some had come to Pakistan's largest city to participate in a Merrill Lynch investment seminar, which was canceled after the shooting. The brokerage firm also canceled a similar seminar scheduled for Friday in Lahore, capital of Punjab province.

The American School in Karachi remained closed for a second day. Security at foreign consulates was tightened, and police established checkpoints around neighborhoods favored by foreigners.

"We were told not to come to school today and to keep the children home," Fania Khan, an American who works at the school, told The Associated Press. The em-

bassy warned Americans in Karachi to stay indoors. Peter Clausen, an embassy spokesman, said about 2,000 Americans live in Pakistan, concentrated in Karachi, Lahore and other large cities. Another 4,000 to 5,000 naturalized Pakistani-Americans have taken up residence in the country, he said.

In his phone call to Mr. Clinton, Mr. Sharif condemned the killings and vowed his government "will spare no efforts to track down the culprits responsible for this heinous crime," according to an account of the conversation released by a government spokesman.

Mr. Sharif also expressed "the heartfelt sympathies and condolences of the people and government of Pakistan," Mr. Sharif ap-

## THREATS: Callers Vow to Kill Americans in Malaysia

Continued from Page 1

resign has raised a storm of protest in Malaysia. The cabinet condemned the nonbinding resolution. Wednesday, saying it "exceeded the norms of diplomatic engagement." Steps by the Clinton administration to investigate a Malaysian oil company's business in Iran also have contributed to anti-American sentiment in Malaysia.

"We don't personally quarrel with American people," Mr. Mahathir was quoted as saying. "I personally have many friends from the United States, including Jews, who are my friends, too."

A U.S. Embassy official said the

embassy had tightened security before a demonstration Thursday by the youth wing of the governing National Front. About 100 members protested in front of the embassy over the U.S. move to investigate the gas venture in Iran by Petronas, the state-owned oil company, and to show support for Mr. Mahathir.

The U.S. Embassy statement referred to the attack Wednesday in Karachi, in which a gunman killed four American oil company employees and their Pakistani driver in a daylight ambush. The police said the killings could have been linked to conviction in the United States on Monday of Mir Aimal Kasi for the killing of two CIA employees in

1993. Mr. Kasi is a Pakistani who was indicted under the name Kansi.

"With the recent conviction of Mir Aimal Kasi, the ongoing trial of Ramzi Ahmed Yousef, the situation in Iraq and today's local press articles on the congressional resolution, Americans in Malaysia are encouraged to maintain a high level of security awareness, and to report any suspicious or threatening behavior to the police," the embassy said.

Mr. Yousef was convicted on Wednesday by a U.S. federal jury of masterminding the 1993 World Trade Center bombing. (Reuters, AP, AFP)

## Houston Firm Shocked by Slayings

'Everybody in the Company Feels Vulnerable' After Karachi Shooting

By Sam Howe Verhovek

New York Times Service

HOUSTON — They were a roving team of auditors, four Houston-based men who spent up to half their work time each year checking the books at Union Texas Petroleum's overseas operations.

Some, like Joel Enlow, the company's manager of audit projects, thrived on all the foreign travel to far-flung places like Pakistan, Kazakhstan, Tunisia and the North Sea; others were not so keen on the grueling pace.

All four were killed in Karachi, Pakistan, on Wednesday morning along with a Pakistani driver in a hail of bullets directed at their car. They were traveling from their hotel to the nearby offices of Union Texas Petroleum, where they were wrapping up an auditing project of roughly two weeks, company officials said.

At the company's Houston headquarters, where the men were widely known, many employees did not learn of the shootings until they came to work. Many people were in tears, and company officials, after setting up a counseling area in the cafeteria, shut down the offices shortly after noon as an act of mourning.

"We don't know how to deal with losing employees like this," said John Whitmore, the chairman and chief executive officer of the company, which has 1,100 employees worldwide, more than half of them based in Pakistan, where it is the largest foreign oil producer. "I think probably everybody in the company feels vulnerable and violated."

Carol Cox, a company spokeswoman,

said: "This is an incredible tragedy for this company. Our priority, since the call came last night, is to work with the families involved."

All of those killed were longtime employees of the company: Mr. Enlow, 40, who had worked there for 14 years; Ephraim Egbo, 42, a senior auditor who had spent 19 years there; Larry Jennings, 49, an audit manager with 10 years at the company; Anwar Murza, 51, the Karachi-based driver, a 10-year Union Texas employee; and Tracy Ritchie, 41, a senior audit supervisor and 15-year employee. All of the Houston-based men were married; Mr. Egbo was the father of two teenage daughters, while none of the others had children, according to information provided by Union Texas officials.

The killings seem to have been directed at Americans. All four Houston-based employees were U.S. citizens, the company said, and they may have been further targeted as employees of an American company with a highly visible presence in Pakistan.

The shootings took place one day after a U.S. jury convicted a Pakistani man in the murder of two CIA employees in 1993. Just after the conviction, the State Department issued a general advisory to Americans in Pakistan to beware of possible retaliatory acts.

The company was reluctant to provide much personal information about the men, acting out of what it described as deference to the families. A barricade of orange traffic cones was erected at the entrance to the offices, in the Galleria district of Houston, and reporters were directed not to approach employees.

Mr. Whitmore held a briefing, in which he vowed that his company would cooperate with Pakistani officials in tracking down the killers. The company's chief financial officer, Larry Kaimbach, later appeared briefly to detail the educational background and spouses' names of each of the deceased. He described them as "relatively low-key, conservative-minded" people who had been highly dedicated to the company.

At Mr. Enlow's home, a few miles away in the Afton Oaks neighborhood of Houston, friends and neighbors gathered and offered memories of him as they consoled his wife, Lisa, an interior designer whom they described as both distraught and physically ill in the few hours after learning of her husband's death.

In Missouri City, Texas, the Houston suburb where Mr. Egbo lived, family members also gathered and recalled that on Tuesday night (Wednesday morning in Karachi) he had called his wife of little more than a year, Idara, just minutes before leaving the hotel to "make sure she was O.K.," Mr. Egbo's sister-in-law told The Associated Press.

Union Texas, which was founded 101 years ago as Union Sulphur Co., has exploration projects in Alaska and in several countries in the Middle East, South America and Europe, but nowhere are its operations more extensive than in Pakistan, where it has about 600 employees.

At least one other Houston-based energy company with operations in Pakistan, Coastal Corp., said Wednesday that it would put heightened security measures into effect for its employees.

### BRIEFLY

## UN Warns of Afghan Starvation

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan — A United Nations representative said here Thursday that the Taliban militia's four-month blockade of the central Hazarajat region of Afghanistan was pushing women, children and the elderly "to the verge of starvation."

"The consequences of this blockade are among the cruelest things to have happened here this year," said Alfredo Winschi-Cestari, UN coordinator for Afghanistan. "In two to three weeks' time, snow will make it impossible to reach the remotest parts of the province, where the needs are greatest."

The Taliban sealed off Hazarajat as part of its war against an opposition alliance in the north. (Reuters)

## Delay for New Thai Cabinet

BANGKOK — The announcement of Prime Minister Chuan Leekpai's cabinet has been delayed another day because of a last-minute change, sources in the Thai government said Thursday.

"The audience with the king is now scheduled for Friday," said an official of the cabinet secretariat of the prime minister's office. Mr. Chuan was named prime minister Monday and pledged to form a cabinet quickly so that he could get to work to solve the nation's worst economic crisis in decades. (Reuters)

## Envoy 'Hopeful' on Dissidents

BEIJING — The U.S. ambassador to China, James Sasser, said Thursday he was "optimistic" that Beijing would release dissidents in the next few weeks, despite the standoff on human rights at the summit meeting last month between Presidents Bill Clinton and Jiang Zemin. Mr. Sasser said he was still hopeful that prisoners would be freed, despite his disappointment that none were freed during Mr. Jiang's Washington visit. (Reuters)

## VERDICT: Mastermind of '93 Manhattan Bombing Is Convicted

Continued from Page 1

ment warned Americans traveling abroad that they could be targets of retaliation for the verdicts. The department said "the potential exists for retaliation by Yousef's sympathizers against American interests."

The parking garage blast on Feb. 26, 1993, failed to topple one of the trade towers — Mr. Yousef told a federal agent he had hoped it would — but it killed six people and wounded more than 1,000 others as it destroyed a complex feeling among many Americans that terrorism was something that happened only in distant countries.

Prosecutors said the bombing was part of a much broader scheme by militant Muslims aimed at punishing the United States for its support of Israel.

Sheikh Omar Abdel Rahman and nine others were convicted in 1995 of conspiring to "wage a war of urban terrorism" against the United States by plotting to bomb the World Trade Center, the United Nations, tunnels leading

into New York and other U.S. landmarks.

Mr. Yousef, 29, seemed to wince, then dropped his head slightly as the verdicts were read. Mr. Ismoil, 26, displayed no emotion. The two defendants fled the United States the night of the bombing. Mr. Yousef was captured in Pakistan in 1995, the same year Mr. Ismoil was detained in Jordan.

The key testimony in the trial was that of a Secret Service agent, Brian Parr, who said Mr. Yousef confessed of his direct role in the bomb plot, his motives and how he had failed to kill as many people as he had planned. Mr. Parr said the confession came during a conversation he had with Mr. Yousef on a flight from Pakistan to the United States after his arrest.

"He related to us that during World War II the Americans had dropped the atomic bombs on the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, killing 250,000 civilians, and he said that the Americans would realize if they suffered those types of casualties that they were at war," Mr. Parr testified.

During the trial, prosecutors called more than 100 witnesses and introduced hundreds of exhibits to prove that Mr. Yousef came to the United States in 1992 solely to bomb a landmark and scare Americans into shunning Israel.

Mr. Yousef's attorney, Roy Kulcsar, tried to convince jurors that Mr. Parr was lying when he said that the rest confessed, while insisting that the rest of the government's case was circumstantial. Mr. Yousef represented himself last year when he was convicted of conspiracy for killing a Japanese man with a bomb he put on a plane in December 1994, and for plotting to kill 4,000 Americans by bombing a dozen airliners over the Far East. He has not yet been sentenced.

James Kallstrom, head of the FBI field office in Manhattan, said after the latest trial that the World Trade Center bombings had changed the way law enforcement agencies prepared for possible terrorist attack. He noted that city and federal officials had rehearsed just last weekend in New York for a possible terrorist nerve gas attack.

## China to Hold Security Talks With Japan and South Korea

Reuters

BEIJING — President Jiang Zemin will hold security talks with the leaders of Japan, South Korea and Southeast Asia on "maintaining regional peace and security," would be held in December, but declined to provide details.

His comments follow a flurry of diplomatic exchanges over the past several weeks, including summit meetings between China and the United States, China and Russia, and Russia and Japan.

Mr. Shen also indicated that China was ready to expand its security dialogue with Japan, Russia and the United States.

He was alluding to a proposal made by Yasuhiro Nakasone, the former Japanese prime minister, to Prime Minister Li Peng in Tokyo on Wednesday that China engage in four-way security talks.

Mr. Shen said Mr. Jiang's talks with leaders of Japan, South Korea and Southeast Asia on "maintaining regional peace and security," would be held in December, but declined to provide details.

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## EUROPE

## Tsk! Tsk! Late-Night TV Sex-Talk Show Leaves Russians Unabashed

By Alessandra Stanley  
New York Times Service

MOSCOW — In a garish yellow and purple television studio, Vladislav, 19, was discussing his frustration over still being a virgin.

He told the studio audience how outraged his mother became when he tried to explain to her some of the more intimate aspects of the problem. "But in my opinion," he said defiantly, "there should be no secrets in the family."

Or, so it would seem, in the country. "About It" is a Russian talk show about sex, and the only coy thing about it is its title. Guests openly and explicitly discuss frigidity, group sex, sadomasochism, oral sex and masturbation, topics that until very recently were never discussed publicly at all.

American-style talk shows and trash TV are not new in Russia. One network offers a weekly late-night program on which, for example, viewers are shown graphic close-up videotapes of surgery.

But never has there been such an open, and single-minded, discussion of sex.

"About It" is a reflection of deep changes in Russian society, but it is also a vivid example of how Russian television is stepping ahead of cultural trends in a race to produce Western-style programming.

The weekly late-night show is the talk of Russia, mainly because its frank discussion and jazzy, irreverent style — and black female host — are innovations in a culture that has not yet fully shaken

off seven decades of Soviet puritanism.

For one thing, the freedom that flourishes on the set does not always flow beyond the studio. At least two participants were dismissed from their jobs after appearing on "About It."

Russia has become far more sexually permissive since the Soviet Union collapsed in 1991, but silence and ignorance are still ingrained.

Abortion remains one of the most common methods of birth control in Russia. An AIDS epidemic is sweeping the country. Syphilis rates in Russia are 100 times those elsewhere in Europe.

"We don't have a culture of going to psychologists, therapists or support groups," said the show's host, Yelena Khanga. "This is the first time ordinary people have a chance to really talk about uncomfortable issues."

Miss Khanga, 35, is also a breakthrough on Russian television. A former reporter at The Moscow News, she is the granddaughter of a black American

Communist who fled segregation in the 1930s with his Polish-born wife. Their daughter, Miss Khanga's mother, married an African studying in Moscow.

Miss Khanga wrote a book, "Soul to Soul," about her experiences growing up black in the Soviet intelligentsia. She now lives in New York City and was studying for a master's at the New York University School of Social Work when she was recruited for the job.

"It's an exotic program, and we needed an exotic host," said Leonid Parfyonov, executive producer of NTV, Russia's largest privately owned network. He said he figured that blacks had a stronger sexual image in Russia, but added that he was motivated mostly by social justice.

But when Miss Khanga arrived for rehearsals, the show's stylist took her to be fitted for blue contact lenses and a blond wig. "We didn't want to go with an Angela Davis, Afro-American style," Mr. Parfyonov said. "We had to

make a step toward the viewers."

Miss Khanga balked at the contact lenses, but went along with the wig. She still lives in New York, commuting once every two months to tape shows. She said that when her mother first heard about the show, she called and said, "Why didn't you tell me it was about sex?"

Miss Khanga said that after she reported, "How come you didn't tell me about sex 15 years ago?" her mother replied, "Who knew you would ever need it?"

A panel of experts takes part in each show, but Miss Khanga admits that she has no background as a sex therapist.

There have been many complaints from viewers. One man recently threatened to sue the station because he felt the discussion on sadomasochism was an "insult to Russian manhood." But it is the program's lighthearted, show-biz approach to sex that appeals to those who volunteer to take part.



"I KNOW NOTHING" — Chancellor Helmut Kohl telling lawmakers Thursday that he hadn't known in advance of a 1994 sting operation in which smugglers carried plutonium on a commercial flight to Munich.

## Yeltsin Reformer Is Linked to Book Scandal

By Daniel Williams  
Washington Post Service

MOSCOW — A new dispute swirled Thursday around Anatoli Chubais, the top free-market reformer in Russia, stemming from allegations that he and five associates received money for a yet-unpublished book from a leading banker with major interest in the country's privatization sweepstakes.

The revelations are the latest scandal to erupt over Mr. Chubais's handling of Russia's economy, in particular sale of state properties. Critics and losers in recent bidding allege that Mr. Chubais plays favorites. At issue now is whether Mr. Chubais is simply corrupt.

Whether the outcry will force Mr.

Chubais's removal is in the hands of President Boris Yeltsin, and Mr. Yeltsin has repeatedly expressed confidence in his team of "young reformers." Mr. Chubais is also a favorite of international bankers, who credit him with stabilizing the economy and setting the stage for future growth.

Parliament voted unanimously Thursday for an investigation by the country's prosecutor-general.

The dispute erupted when a Russian journalist reported that Mr. Chubais and the others were paid \$90,000 each to write a book about the history of privatization since 1991. Mr. Chubais has pushed to sell off state-owned companies, many of which have been sold cheaply to Yeltsin supporters.

The more than \$500,000 paid for the book raised eyebrows because it would take hefty sales to recoup it.

The source of the funding is likely to become the central issue. The Sebodnya publishing house, which bought the book, is about 50 percent owned by Uneximbank. The bank, headed by a former deputy minister, Victor Potanin, has bought lucrative state property.

Uneximbank's recent purchase of the Svyazinvest telecommunications company angered rival bidders. Uneximbank and a consortium that included the financier George Soros won 25 percent of the company with a bid of \$1.9 billion. A losing group alleges that the deal was fixed and that Mr. Potanin has become a paying client of Mr. Chubais's.

## Diana Paparazzi 'Unbelievable'

Reuters

LONDON — The first person to arrive at the scene of the car crash that killed Diana, Princess of Wales, said that the behavior of photographers there was "unbelievable" and that "the cameras were going like machine guns."

In the interview with the Guardian newspaper, Stephanie Darmon, 32, said he was the motorcycle driver for a Gamma photographer, Romuald Rat, on the night of the Paris car crash Aug. 31.

He said he and Mr. Rat were with other photographers who followed the Mercedes limousine carrying Diana and her companion, Dodi al-Fayed, from the Ritz Hotel in Paris, but "once it had turned into the expressway, it just took off — almost supersonic."

Mr. Darmon and Mr. Rat were too far behind to hear the crash in an underpass, but "we were the first to get there — the investigating magistrate says we arrived 30 seconds after the crash," Mr. Darmon said.

"The car was almost facing us, with its hood in the wall," Mr. Darmon said. "I drove up to it and Romuald got off. The others were arriving."

Mr. Darmon said he drove on a little farther, to the exit of the tunnel.

"The photographers lined up on the right-hand side of the wreck," he said. "All the bodies were in the car. The underpass was white with flashlights."

"The cameras were going like machine guns. It was so dazzling that, for a while from my vantage point at the exit of the tunnel, I could not see the Mercedes."

He said he was too frightened to move, but that Mr. Rat did open the door of the car to try to help the victims because he has a first-aid certificate.

The police arrested Mr. Darmon and six photographers, placing them under formal investigation on charges of manslaughter and failing to help accident victims.

Last Friday, a Paris court rejected an attempt by the seven to have passages about them cut from a book written about the death of Diana. They had asked the court to take action against the book, "They Killed Her," because they feared it would prejudice their own case.

The court ruled that the book, by Madeleine Chapsal, did not directly implicate them.



PETER GILLBRAND  
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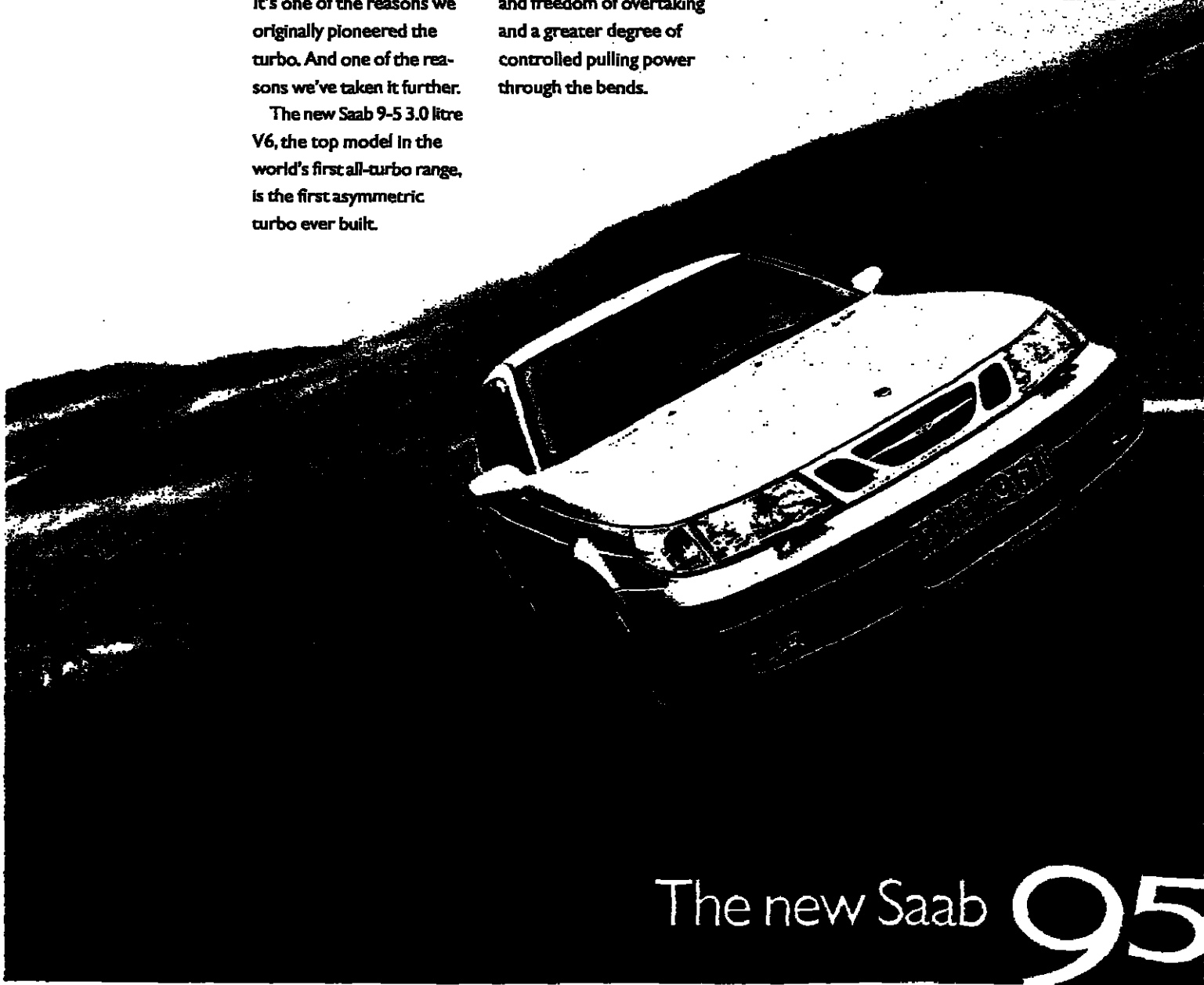
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## BRIEFLY

## EU Ambassadors Set For Return to Iran

BRUSSELS — EU ambassadors to Iran, withdrawn in April after the Islamic regime was implicated in terrorism by a German court, will return in two groups between now and Nov. 21, the European Union announced Thursday.

The French and German ambassadors will be the last two to arrive, a statement from the EU's Luxembourg presidency said.

After the election of the new Iranian president and the formation of a new government, the moment has come to resolve the problem of the return of ambassadors, the statement said.

In light of this, Luxembourg had undertaken contacts with Iran to allow a restoration of normal diplomatic relations "in the interests of both parties."

Iran confirmed that it had reached a settlement with the European Union to allow the return of the envoys. The Foreign Ministry said Iran had "agreed to the arrangement because of positive developments in Europe with respect to Iran." (AFP)

## EU Transport Chief Sees Traffic Surge

BRUSSELS — The EU transportation office said Thursday that the amount of freight hauled through the European Union would soar by 70 percent in the next 25 years — most of it by road — and car traffic would rise by 40 percent.

The EU transportation commissioner, Neil Kinnock, said that unless EU governments rethought freight transport, Europeans could expect "massive increases" in road congestion and in "pollution in urban areas."

Mr. Kinnock also cited inefficiencies in freight hauling, with too many trucks being driven empty and cargo trains averaging only 16 kilometers an hour (10 miles an hour). He called on European governments to make better use of railroads and shipping and to further integrate their road and rail networks. (AP)

## French Fishermen Attack Belgian Boat

BRUSSELS — French fishermen attacked a Belgian trawler inside French territorial waters in the English Channel on Thursday, according to French officials and

a Belgian fishing vessel owners' organization. French crew members hurled rocks and fired flares at the Belgian trawler, smashing windows, and threw nets over the vessel's propeller to block it, the boat owners' association, Rederscentrale, said.

French officials said five French boats preparing to haul in their nets had caught the Belgian vessel, identified as the Mar B, inside France's 12-mile territorial limit.

They surrounded the Belgian vessel to prevent it from fleeing. There were no injuries, and an investigation of the incident had been opened, officials said. (Reuters)

## Bonn Assails Greece And Italy Over Kurds

BONN — Greece and Italy are not doing enough to prevent a stream of Kurdish refugees from heading toward Germany, the German Interior Ministry said Thursday.

Kurt Schelter, a senior Interior Ministry official, warned that Greece's failure to either process the Kurdish refugees or turn them back could harm its chance for entry into a pact of European nations eliminating border controls between members. Italy already belongs.

Greece is believed to be the first point of entry to the European Union for Kurds fleeing northern Iraq via Turkey, and is required under existing agreements to either process asylum applications or turn the refugees back.

Half of the 3,000 Iraqis seeking asylum in Germany in the first eight months of the year were found near the French border. Mr. Schelter said this supported Germany's contention that they were traveling through Greece, Italy and then France. (AP)

## Russian Parliament Delays Budget Debate

MOSCOW — The lower house of the Russian Parliament postponed debate Thursday on the 1998 budget until Wednesday, the State Duma speaker, Gennadi Seleznyov, announced.

The first reading had been due to begin Thursday, but the house spent the day debating tax bills that the government had presented as essential underpinnings for the budget. Several of these bills were rejected or withdrawn.

Mr. Seleznyov, a Communist, added that if the budget debate could not take place next Wednesday, it could be held the following day. (Reuters)

## INTERNATIONAL

## Shin Bet Agent Incited Rabin Killer

Secret Service Admits It Could Not Control Rightist Informer

**The Associated Press**  
**JERUSALEM** — An informer for the Shin Bet security service instigated Yitzhak Rabin's eventual assassin to violence and never informed his handlers that the youth was bragging he would kill the prime minister, according to a secret report published Thursday.

Seven pages of excerpts from the report, written by an inquiry commission several months after the November 1995 assassination, were published to dispel persistent rumors that the Shin Bet knew in advance of the assassination and was involved in a conspiracy.

The publication of the report prompted the Shin Bet chief, Ami Ayalon, to issue a rare public statement saying the organization "will never forget" its failure to protect Mr. Rabin and was doing its best to "learn all the lessons."

Most of the excerpts released dealt with Avishai Raviv, a Jewish extremist who became an informer for the Shin Bet in 1987 and has in recent weeks been at the center of public debate over who was to blame for the incendiary atmosphere that led to the killing.

The report described Mr. Raviv as a troublemaker agent who was not always forthcoming with his handlers, and said it was "astonishing" that he did not tell them his friend Yigal Amir, the eventual assassin, was bragging that he would kill

Mr. Rabin. Mr. Raviv himself told Mr. Amir that religious law permitted the killing of Mr. Rabin, the report said.

"Avishai Raviv bitterly attacked the prime minister and said the judgment of an oppressor applied to him and that it is therefore permissible to attack him," it said.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu reportedly was eager to publish the report, and his supporters view it as evidence countering accusations that the political right created the divisive atmosphere that led to the assassination.

In his nine years as an informer, Mr. Raviv engaged in acts of violence and provocation to increase his credibility with his peers, the report said. In the West Bank town of Hebron, he would slash tires of Arab-owned cars and beat up Palestinians, it said.

"His supervision by the Shin Bet was ineffectual, and in most cases they learned about what happened only after the event, yet continued to make do with warnings," the report said.

In his statement, Mr. Ayalon defended the use of Mr. Raviv, saying that the agency "must walk a fine line between the essential nature of the information and the behavior" of the informer. "Today, all the energy is spent trying to find the right path."

At some stage, Mr. Raviv became best

friends with Mr. Amir, who moved in the same extremist circles, the report said.

In the months preceding the assassination, Mr. Amir kept telling his friends he would kill the prime minister, according to testimony heard by the inquiry commission.

It was therefore "astonishing that in his reports on Yigal Amir," Mr. Raviv "did not mention, not even with a hint, the well-known declarations of Amir about his intention to attack Rabin, which Amir made several times to others in his circle of friends," the report said.

## Rabin's Son Gets Death Threat

Mr. Rabin's son, Yuval, received a death threat as he attended a memorial ceremony on the second anniversary of his father's assassination. The Associated Press reported Thursday, quoting a friend of Yuval's.

The threat was made Wednesday in a call to Yuval Rabin's mobile phone, according to Tal Silberstein, a leader of the Dor Shalom peace group, which the younger Rabin founded after the assassination.

The death threat was recorded on Yuval Rabin's voice mail and was played on Israel radio Thursday.

The caller said, "If you follow in your father's footsteps, you will end up as he did."

## In Deathbed Plea, Philosopher Asked Partition of Israel

Reuters

**LONDON** — In a deathbed statement, Sir Isaiah Berlin called for the partition of Israel as being "the only correct solution" for Israeli-Palestinian problems, a British newspaper reported Thursday.

The appeal was disclosed by Sir Isaiah's literary trustees to coincide with a visit to Britain of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel for talks on the stalled Middle East peace process, the Guardian newspaper said.

Sir Isaiah, the philosopher who died in Oxford on Nov. 5 at the age of 88, was deeply worried by Mr. Netanyahu's hard-line stance on the Palestinian question.

The statement was dictated by Sir Isaiah to his wife the day he died. It said in part: "Since both sides begin with a claim of total possession of Palestine as their historical right, and since neither claim can be accepted within the realms of realism or without grave injustice, it is plain that a compromise — i.e. partition — is the only correct solution."

## Israeli Foreign Minister To Shun Arab Conference

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

**JERUSALEM** — The Israeli government announced Thursday that the foreign minister, David Levy, will not lead its delegation to an Arab-Israeli economic conference in Doha, Qatar, that starts Sunday.

The Israeli delegation will instead be led by Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky, the Foreign Ministry said, adding that he will be accompanied by the head of the Bank of Israel, Yacov Frenkel; representatives of several ministries, and about 30 business leaders.

The ministry said Mr. Levy would stay home "because, given the economic character of the conference, it is best that the head of the delegation be a top economic official."

Mr. Levy attended last year's meeting, in Cairo.

The annual conference was started four years ago, in the first flush of enthusiasm at Israel's interim peace agreement with the Palestinians.

But few projects have been completed, and most Arab countries are refusing to sit with the Israelis, much less consider integrating their investment into their economies.

Israeli officials had said earlier that Mr. Levy would probably not participate in the conference because Arab

states were either boycotting the forum on Nov. 16-18 or sending lower-level delegations without foreign ministers.

Secretary of State Madeleine Albright will attend the meeting and Washington had pressed Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to send Mr. Levy as a sign of Israel's interest in pursuing the peace process.

At the first two meetings, in Casablanca in 1994 and Amman in 1995, Israel was represented by then-Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and his foreign minister, Shimon Peres.

Aside from Qatar, only Jordan, Kuwait, Oman and Yemen have said they will participate in this year's forum.

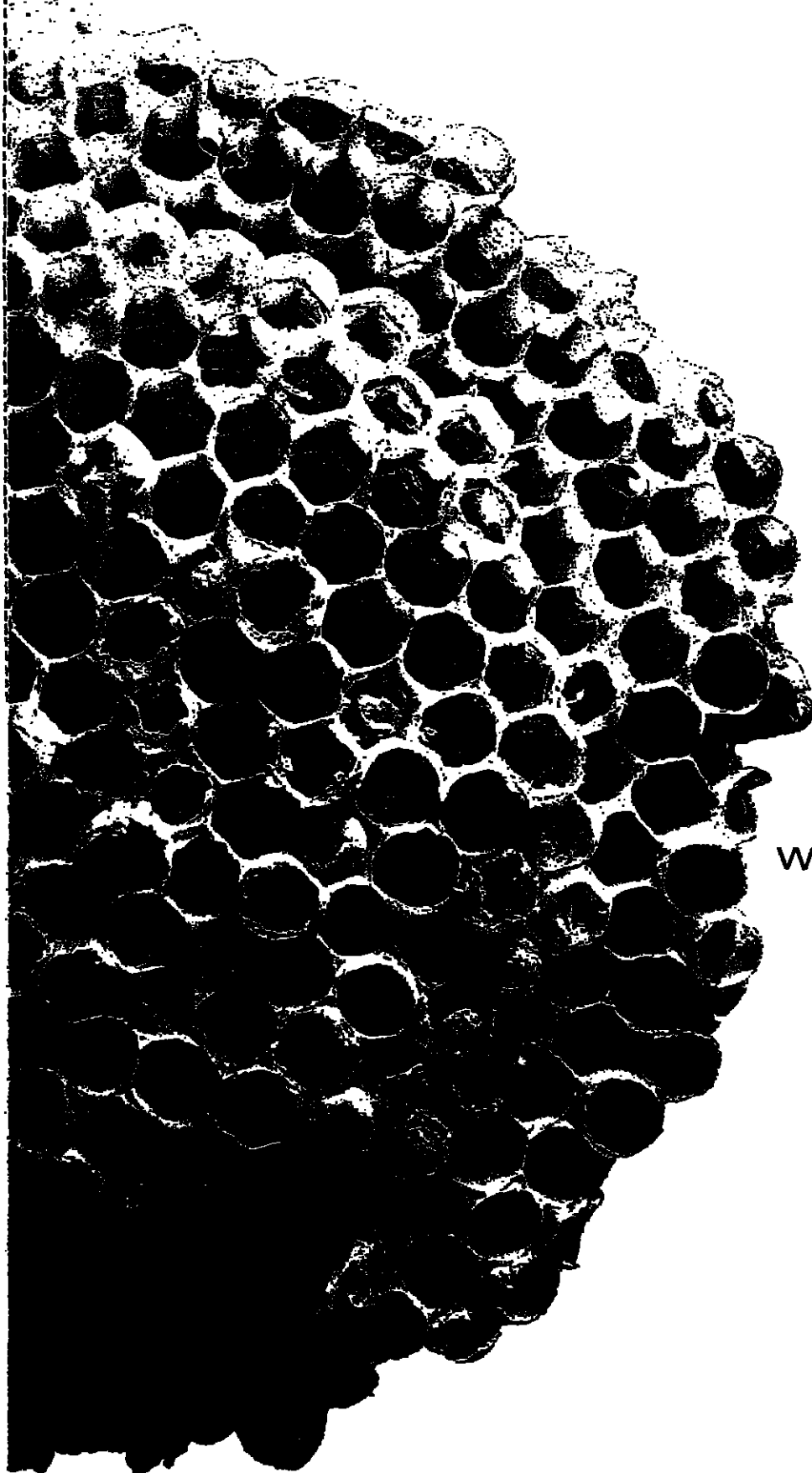
Earlier Thursday, the Arab League announced that it was joining the boycott. The secretary of the Arab League, General Esmat Abdel Meguid, said at the organization's headquarters in Cairo: "This decision is taken out of consideration for the discouraging developments that surround the Middle East peace process and the dangers threatening it because of the policies of the Israeli government."

The peace process has been stalled since March, when Mr. Netanyahu ordered ground broken for a new Jewish settlement on disputed land in Jerusalem.

(AFP, Reuters)

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## Bob Jones Jr. Dies; Bible College Head

By William H. Honan  
New York Times Service

The Reverend Bob Jones Jr., 86, chancellor and board chairman of Bob Jones University in Greenville, South Carolina, who in the late 1970s forfeited its federal tax exemption rather than permit students of different races to date or marry, died of cancer Wednesday in Greenville.

Bob Jones University, a Christian fundamentalist institution, was founded in 1927 by Mr. Jones's father, the Reverend Bob Jones Sr., an Alabama farm boy who became a popular evangelist and prohibitionist in the South at the turn of the century. The university, then as now, "stands without apology for the old-time religion and the absolute authority of the Bible," in the words of the founder, who died in 1968.

Mr. Jones was acting president from 1932 to 1947, and president from the time of the university's move to Greenville in 1947 until 1971, when he passed the position on to his eldest son, Bob Jones 3d. Mr. Jones then became chancellor-chairman, which relieved him of day-to-day responsibilities and gave him the opportunity to preach.

In the 1970s Bob Jones University's federal tax-exempt status was challenged as a result of a 1970 IRS policy that stopped granting such status to private schools that practiced discrimination.

Mr. Jones defended the university's policy against dating and marriage by couples of different races by maintaining that it was based on a literal interpretation of the Bible and therefore came under the constitutional protection of religious freedom.

In the Book of Genesis, he declared, the Bible tells the story of the Tower of Babel, which describes how God divided the speech of the tower builders into many languages

so that humankind would not become overly enamored of its material accomplishments and neglect its duty to God.

So it is a sin, Mr. Jones asserted, to oppose that divine act by permitting interracial dating. Many Christian fundamentalists do not agree with that view, but Mr. Jones drew a following and became widely recognized as a champion of racial segregation.

In 1983, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that there was no question that the IRS was correct in 1970, when it stopped granting tax-exempt status to discriminatory colleges.

The court's decision was a repudiation of the administration's legal position. The vote was 8 to 1, with Justice William Rehnquist casting the dissenting vote.

Interracial dating is still banned at Bob Jones University, and the college has not regained its tax exemption.

## Margaret Harshaw, 88; Star of the Metropolitan

**NEW YORK (NYT)** — Margaret Harshaw, 88, who was best known as a Wagnerian singer but whose performances in Mozart and Verdi operas were also highly regarded, died Friday in Libertyville, Illinois.

She sang at the Metropolitan Opera for 22 seasons, from November 1942, when she made her debut as the Second Norm in Wagner's "Die Goetterdaemmerung," until March 1964, when she gave her final performance as Ortrud in "Lohengrin."

Because she spent the first nine years of her Met career as a mezzo soprano and then switched to soprano roles, she sang more Wagnerian roles than any other singer in the Met's history.

Hideo Edo, 94, who was credited with constructing Japan's first high-rise building, died of respiratory failure in Tokyo on Thursday. (AP)

## BRIEFLY

## Statehood in '99, Arafat Says

**GAZA** — The Palestinians will declare statehood in 1999 — unilaterally if necessary — at the end of a five-year interim period of autonomy, Yasser Arafat said Thursday. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel has warned that he would break off peace talks with the Palestinians if they declared statehood before the two sides had reached a peace agreement.

The interim period began in May 1994 with the start of limited Palestinian self-rule in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Israel and the Palestinians are committed to negotiating a permanent agreement by May 1999. (AP)

## Disease Threat in Somalia

**NAIROBI (Reuters)** — The death toll from floods in Somalia has topped 500, and relief workers are worried about outbreaks of cholera and other diseases in the next several weeks, an aid agency said Thursday.

The United Nations and the Organization of African Unity say that as many as 800,000 people live in areas of southern Somalia affected by the floods. (Reuters)

## Mexican Drug War Disputed

**WASHINGTON** — President Ernesto Zedillo began his first visit to Washington in two years Thursday as divisions arose between President Bill Clinton's administration and members of Congress over the way Mexico is fighting drug traffickers.

The administration's top drug adviser, retired General Barry McCaffrey, has credited Mexico with "phenomenal" advances in the drug war in comments aimed at Senators Paul Coverdell, Republican of Georgia, and Dianne Feinstein, Democrat of California, who contend that Mexico's performance is still subpar. (AP)



## INTERNATIONAL

## Iraq Crisis Wrecks American Dream of Forming an Arab Coalition for Peace

By Douglas Jehl  
New York Times Service

AMMAN, Jordan — In the heady aftermath of the Gulf War of 1991, American officials dreamed of transforming the Arab coalition that helped to oust Iraq from Kuwait into a new Arab coalition for peace.

They envisioned an Arab world no longer unified by romantic notions of solidarity, but riven instead by self-interest, with warmongers like Iraq to be punished into submission while peacemakers like Egypt and Syria reaped rewards for good conduct.

But after seven years of dashed expectations, what is taking shape instead has the trappings of an Arab revolt.

The same Arab governments that rushed troops to the Saudi desert now stand united in opposition to the use of military might in the current confrontation between the United States and Iraq over Baghdad's blocking of United Nations arms inspectors.

As new questions are raised about the next stage in the crisis, some of America's Gulf War allies are echoing Iraqi calls for an end to economic sanctions against the Baghdad government.

And, even more tellingly, an American-backed economic conference that Secretary of State Madeleine Albright is to attend this week-

end in Doha, Qatar, now appears likely to include no more than a smattering of Arab participants. Among those who have refused Qatar's invitation to join an Israeli delegation around the table are Egypt and Saudi Arabia, the United States' most important allies in the region.

As a result, the year's most important gathering of Arab officials will now take place not in Doha, but at an Islamic summit meeting next month in Tehran, to which neither the United States nor Israel will be invited.

Behind the renewed sense of Arab solidarity toward Iraq and against the United States has been a feeling that in the relationship between Washington and Arab capitals since the Gulf War, basic understandings have been broken.

While the United States assured its allies that the isolation of Iraq would change Baghdad's behavior, the only tangible effect of the campaign has been the widespread suffering of the Iraqi people, according to this view.

And while the United States, from the time of the Middle East peace conference of 1991, has promised an evenhanded effort in promoting a broader Arab-Israeli settlement, its many Arab critics say it has failed to do so in practice.

Instead, according to this view, the Clinton administration has simply acquiesced in a back-

sliding by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel that has sent Arab-Israeli relations plummeting.

"A consensus within the Arab world now is that American policy toward Iraq has been overkill and that the Iraqi people have needlessly suffered," said Mohammed Sayed Saeed, a policy analyst at the Al Ahram Center for Strategic Studies in Cairo. "At the same time, Arabs believe that they have been treated as inferiors by the United States while Israel, which went back on its peace agreements, enjoys complete American protection."

Such thinking has been bubbling for many months in the Arab press and in the comments of some Arab officials. But the combination of the showdown with Iraq and a buildup to the economic conference that included last-minute American efforts to rally Arab support has begun to reveal just how deeply the resentment is felt.

Even President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt, whose government acted as host for the previous economic conference, in November 1996, declared that his government would stay away this time because diplomatic efforts had produced nothing of substance and "because the Israeli government never carries out its promises."

Of the Arab states that sent troops into battle against Iraq, only Syria has openly sided with the Baghdad government in the current crisis. Find-

ing that its participation in the Gulf War coalition led only to stalemate in its effort to reclaim territory conquered by Israel and secure a lasting peace, it has made a major effort in recent months to improve relations with President Saddam Hussein's regime, even opening the border between the two countries for the first time in 15 years.

Even Kuwait, which Iraq invaded and annexed in 1990, has avoided any hint of provocation. On Monday, the government, normally outspoken in support for tough measures against Baghdad, said the crisis "between Iraq and the Security Council is an issue related to them and Kuwait has nothing to do with it."

Indeed, the absence of any threat to another Arab country by Iraq in the current crisis has only added to Arab reluctance to oppose Baghdad.

The Arab League, which sent troops to Saudi Arabia in 1990 eight days after the invasion of Kuwait, has in this case declared its "complete rejection" of military action even if Iraq carries out its threat to expel American weapons inspectors. The United Arab Emirates, an important Gulf War participant that has since called for a lifting of sanctions against Iraq, has warned through an official government newspaper that an attack on Iraq, "the defeated and the paralyzed," could be interpreted only as "an attack against the whole Arab nation."

And while Egypt, which holds a rotating seat

on the Security Council, voted in favor of Wednesday's measure tightening sanctions against Iraq, Mr. Mubarak has publicly expressed the hope that "there will be no military operations against Iraq," while the semi-official newspaper Al Ahram, in an editorial earlier this week, endorsed the broad outline of Iraq's complaints.

Dismissing as untrue the long-standing American contention that Iraq has concealed evidence of a continuing weapons program, the newspaper accused American inspectors instead of "contriving disputes over extremely trivial details so as to prevent the UN inspection team from declaring its mission accomplished."

The idea of "Arab solidarity" has been floated often in recent decades, but often as little more than an empty slogan that fails to take into account rivalries of interest and ambition.

But its role has also sometimes been underestimated. Because of a shared culture and language, a sense of kinship among Arab peoples is felt much more deeply than that which exists, for example, between Americans and Europeans, and it has contributed to popular outrage in every Arab capital at the plight of Iraqis at the hands of the United States.

In an important sense, the resistance now being shown by Arab leaders toward the United States amounts to stepping back in line with a public opinion they had previously been willing to flout.

## U.S. Reinforces Air Base In Turkey to Curb Flights By Iraq in Exclusion Zone

By Kelly Couturier  
Washington Post Service

ANKARA — The United States has beefed up the allied air force based in Turkey that controls the exclusion zone in northern Iraq, responding to increased violations by Iraqi aircraft, a senior Western official said.

Over the last week and a half, four F-16 fighters and five KC-135 tankers have arrived at Incirlik Air Base near Adana in southern Turkey.

The official said the increase in the allied force here is not related to the escalating tension between Washington and Baghdad over United Nations' arms inspections in Iraq. The move, he said, was designed to send the message to Baghdad that "we are not letting our guard down."

Iraqi violations of the zone have been increasing in recent weeks, including two incidents last Sunday, the official

said, prompting the U.S.-British-Turkish force based at Incirlik to begin a "more rigorous enforcement," including longer daily patrols.

The official said Iraqi planes periodically have violated the zone, demarcated by the 36th Parallel, since it was set up in 1991 to prevent Iraqi attacks on the border area's rebellious Kurdish inhabitants. The violations apparently are attempts by the government of President Saddam Hussein to test the allied force's response, he added, but the planes usually turn back quickly after being spotted by allied aircraft.

A U.S. F-16 patrolling the north in 1993 downed an Iraqi MiG-23 that U.S. officials said had flown two nautical miles into the exclusion zone.

The Iraqi foreign minister, Mohammed Said Sabah, charged in Baghdad on Wednesday that U.S. military planes have violated Iraq's airspace in both the northern and southern regions of the country. He warned that "whenever we see proper to shoot them, we will shoot them."

The United States also enforces a no-fly zone in southern Iraq, mainly from bases in Saudi Arabia, to protect the country's rebellious Shiite region. Iraq frequently has complained that the patrols violate its airspace but has drawn retaliation from U.S. forces whenever it challenged the patrols.

Although military and government officials here declined to specify how large the allied air force at Incirlik is, U.S. officials in Washington estimated that it has 50 aircraft and 1,000 personnel, which are rotated in and out. Currently, the Western official said, 36 aircraft, including F-16s, tankers and radar-carrying AWAC aircraft fly each day.

The allied patrol was known as Operation Provide Comfort when it was set up by the United States, Britain, France and Turkey. It is now called Operation Northern Watch, no longer includes France and has become an element of the U.S. policy to maintain pressure on Mr. Saddam's government.

## IRAQ: Confrontation Builds

Continued from Page 1

prohibited weapons. Inspectors have been especially concerned with Iraq's ability to make biological arms, which can be produced quickly and employed with simple crop-duster planes as well as missiles.

"Our skeleton staff will be running our machines," Mr. Butler said. "Some of those include screens on the receiving end of remote cameras."

"But I would be misleading you if I thought that gave us any confidence. The fact is that every day that has passed since the 29 October announcements by Iraq has harmed our monitoring effort, and certainly the absence of inspections has been a matter of most serious concern."

"Every day lost makes the circumstances worse," he said. "And of course when we leave tomorrow, those problems will simply grow."

## ECONOMY: Fed Chief Sees Muted Exports

Continued from Page 1

testified with Mr. Greenspan, said he agreed with the Fed chairman's view that the fallout on the U.S. economy would be "modest, but not negligible." He warned, however, that the effects of the Asian crisis would "depend heavily on stability being restored as soon as possible."

There is no "significant risk to U.S. financial institutions or to domestic financial stability as a whole as a result of the turbulence to date," Mr. Summers said. "As a result, the direct and indirect trade impact on our economy of a prolonged period of slower growth in Southeast Asia, and the large decline in its currencies is potentially significant."

Two months ago, most economists saw no reason to adjust their U.S. growth forecasts because of the Asian crisis, which they believed would remain confined to a region of the world far removed from America and its vital interests.

"Most of our export growth was coming from Latin America so we saw little reason for concern," said David Resler, chief economist at Nomura Securities International. "Now all of a sudden the crisis has hit Latin America, too."

While the situation in Latin America appears nowhere near as dire as in Asia, the fiscal tightening and higher interest rates put in place across the region in recent days to defend markets have had an impact. Stock markets there have tumbled as once common forecasts of economic growth of 4 percent in powerhouse economies such as Brazil have been slashed to predictions of near negligible expansion for next year.

In a globe-straddling chain reaction, U.S. economists had started whittling away at their growth forecasts in the wake of the stock market slump in late October. Now many of them are cutting their forecasts further. "I think that the crisis will cut American growth next year in half," said Philip Braverman, chief economist for DKB Securities.

While Mr. Braverman expects growth of 2 percent next year, one of Wall Street's most respected economists says

even that may prove optimistic. Edward Yardeni, chief economist at Deutsche Morgan Grenfell calculates that there is a one-in-four chance that the United States could slip into a recession in 1998.

By all accounts, America's economy is turning in its best performance in decades, with low inflation, solid growth and negligible unemployment. On Thursday, fresh evidence of the economy's health emerged in government figures showing that business productivity rose in the third quarter to its fastest pace in nearly five years — to an annual rate of 4.5 percent — helping to push the cost of producing a given unit of economic output down by 0.3 percent in the quarter.

But many observers remained skeptical. "For us to believe that we have nothing to worry about is lunacy," said John Gutfreund, the former chairman of Salomon Brothers. After seven years of growth, "I have a feeling that we are looking at a serious change," he said.

What worries many observers is that so many dikes in so many corners of the world have suddenly sprung leaks that the cumulative effect is likely to be felt even in America. Asia, excluding Japan, absorbs nearly a third of U.S. capital-goods exports. With Latin America now slamming on the brakes as well, prospects are darkening for American exporters.

For instance, Caterpillar, the world's largest maker of earth-moving equipment has seen its stock lose more than 20 percent of its value in the last month as analysts have slashed their earnings estimates for the company, based largely on the toughening outlook overseas.

Not only do they and other exporters face a decline in overseas demand, but in the wake of major devaluations in the currencies of some of their leading competitors, American companies will also find that they must cut prices if they want to hold on to customers even at home.

Separately, Chase Manhattan Corp. said it lost \$160 million before taxes from trading activities primarily in Latin America in October, and as a result may fail to achieve its targeted 15 percent growth in operating earnings this year.



Members of the UN commission to disarm Iraq returning to their headquarters in Baghdad on Thursday after the government barred them again from a suspected weapons site. They were ordered to leave the country.

## NATO Lowers the Bill for Enlargement

By William Drozdiak  
Washington Post Service

BRUSSELS — A definitive NATO study on the cost of absorbing the Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland into the Western military alliance has concluded that the U.S. estimates were much too high and that any extra burden for NATO budgets should amount to less than \$2 billion over the next decade.

The study, prepared in advance of next month's meetings of the alliance's defense and foreign ministers, vindicates the "enlargement on the cheap" views of European governments that need to cut budget deficits to qualify for a single European currency and objected to U.S. demands they bear the lion's share of enlargement costs.

The NATO secretary general, Javier Solana Madariaga, said he welcomed the low-cost assessment as a "very positive development" that should eliminate the financial factor as a source of concern in the U.S. Senate and other legislatures that must ratify the alliance enlargement treaties in the coming year.

"A month ago I was very worried that this issue could mean serious trouble for transatlantic relations," Mr. Solana said in an interview. "Now I am very much relieved to learn that in the judgment of our best military minds, the cost of enlargement should not pose any problems."

Mr. Solana and other senior alliance officials said the detailed review by NATO's top military commanders found the defense infrastructure of new members in much better condition than thought. They said air fields and rail lines in the former Warsaw Pact states had been well maintained and would not require the kind of expensive refurbishing to meet NATO standards that had been expected.

The study also concluded that the allies, notably Britain, France and Germany, were making good progress in equipping their armed forces for rapid mobility and power projection tasks required to support their new military partners to the east.

After careful scrutiny, NATO's two top commanders, General Wesley Clark and Admiral Harold Gehman, have now pegged foreseeable threats to the alliance at much lower levels than in earlier enlargement studies. They envision a maximum mobilization of 20 NATO divisions in a worst case scenario, about one-third the number estimated by the Pentagon in a study released in February.

NATO officials said that given the diminished threat from Russia, for example, they have concluded that Poland can be defended easily with the allied forces and equipment now protecting Germany. "Poland is flat and presents no geographic barriers to extending our collective defense eastward from Germany," a top NATO official said. "It's a lot harder, and a lot more expensive, to defend Turkey than it is to reinforce Germany's neighbors."

The Clinton administration estimated early this year that the cost of NATO expansion would run from \$27 billion to

\$35 billion through 2009. But several allies objected to that assessment, contending it exaggerated threats to the alliance and placed too much of a financial burden on European governments that were being asked to pick up more than 90 percent of the bill.

The bickering reached a crescendo at a meeting of NATO defense ministers last month in Maastricht, Netherlands. Several ministers argued that the U.S. approach to enlargement seemed to be predicated on finding new markets for costly high-tech weapons that members could ill afford.

But Defense Secretary William Cohen and other senior U.S. officials have started backing away in recent weeks from the administration's cost estimates. They noted that the American study was carried out for four new members, not three.

They also acknowledged that the defense posture of new and existing members is better suited for post-Cold War missions than the Pentagon study had postulated.

Senior NATO officials said that a detailed military review showed that the alliance as a whole may need to spend only \$1.3 billion over the next 10 years to ensure that the military forces of the new eastern members can operate compatibly within NATO's integrated command.

They said that money, added to the alliance's common-funded budgets, would cover improving command, control and communications facilities of the new members; upgrading their air defense systems; bolstering their ability to accept reinforcements from other allies, and conducting training and other exercises so they can operate on the same basis as the rest of the alliance.

## PARLEZ-VOUS: Not Many Do, and France Is Calling a Meeting

Continued from Page 1

others, like Canada and Belgium, it is one of two or more official languages, and in around 20, like Romania, Bulgaria and Egypt, it is widely studied or, as in Vietnam, went out of vogue with the independence struggle.

The Canadian provinces of Quebec and New Brunswick also have full membership. In the United States, New England, where more people now study Spanish in school than French, has observer status, as does Louisiana.

Potentially, the French-speaking world is powerful, with 10 percent of the globe's gross national product and 9 percent of its population.

But it includes some of the poorest nations in the world and some of the most violence-prone, including the Democratic Republic of the Congo, called Zaire until this year, and both Rwanda and Burundi. Hundreds of thousands of people have been killed in ethnic massacres on the territory of all three countries since 1994.

In much of French-speaking Africa, until recently, France used linguistic and economic ties to keep former colonies firmly in its orbit, using military force to protect leaders it liked and to oust those it did not.

In North Africa, Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia all made Arabic their official language after they achieved independence from France.

Algeria, where the war for independence was even more bitter than in Vietnam and which is now torn by violence that has killed more than 60,000 people, has an estimated 3.5 million French speakers but does not participate in the Francophone movement at all.

Now, in a historical irony that might baffle Mr. Ho, the French-educated Vietnamese Communist leader who sacrificed millions of his compatriots' lives for independence from French and later American influence, his country is joining its former colonial master to try to use the French language to build up a bloc of nations determined to stand up to the

global assault of Anglo-American cultural, economic and political influences.

"The English that is spreading around the world is Anglo-American, not the pure English of Shakespeare," said Margie Sudre, a Vietnamese-born French legislator who had the job of secretary of state for Francophone affairs in the French Foreign Ministry when the conservatives were in power earlier this year. "We don't want the French language to lose its richness and purity," she said.

This weekend, the linguistic summiters will elect Boutros Boutros Ghali, the former United Nations secretary-general, as their own secretary-general — a permanent spokesman to the rest of the globe for the next four years.

"I see it as a regional grouping," he said of the Francophone movement in a recent interview with the weekly *Le Figaro Magazine*.

"It should become a way of defending cultural diversity," he explained. "If everybody wears the same clothes, speaks the same language, has the same customs, we risk having a global fascist-type regime."

Somehow, all this is expected to help French-speaking countries acquire at least some of the cultural and business clout around the world that English speakers get, in the French view, as a free ride.

"As soon as you get two or three business leaders together, you start speaking English," said a leading French executive, Jean Gandois, until last month the president of the main employers organization in France.

In all the world there are, by official French count, only 105 million "genuine" Francophones, people who use French every day — not even half as many English speakers as there are in the United States alone. Put another way, fewer people speak French around the globe than the number of people in Brazil who speak Portuguese.

Some 55 million more people in former French colonies in Asia, Africa, America and the Caribbean use French occasionally and 100 million people scattered

## Algiers Riot Police Smother Attempt At Protest March

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

ALGIERS — Riot police deployed a heavy security net in the center of Algiers on Thursday to stop supporters of six political parties, including one in the government coalition, from marching against what they termed election fraud.

Just before 2 P.M., when the gathering had been scheduled to meet, the May 1 Square, one of the capital's main intersections, was completely cleared as policemen carrying riot sticks blocked off all access roads and turned back passers-by.

A helicopter maintained surveillance over the square.

Police inspectors were also deployed around train and bus stations to check the identities of people who arrived from neighboring provinces to take part in the march.

About 1,000 demonstrators gathered at three points in streets leading to May 1 Square shortly before the march was due to take place. Said Saadi, leader of the Rally for Culture and Democracy (RCD), one of the protesting parties, was among those seen there.

The parties had planned to march from the square to the Parliament building to protest what they said was widespread rigging of the vote in local and regional elections last month.

The main government party, the National Democratic Rally, took most seats in the balloting.

One resident said he saw the police beating people who "tried to challenge police and organize the march."

There were no reports of any arrests, and the protesters finally dispersed without marching.

The Socialist Forces Front and the Rally for Culture and Democracy were among the groups that called for the march, including the Islamist-leaning Movement for a Peaceful Society, a member of the current government coalition, the resident added. (AFP, Reuters)



## EDITORIALS/OPINION

# Herald Tribune

PUBLISHED WITH THE NEW YORK TIMES AND THE WASHINGTON POST

## Send a Stronger Message

Iraq's President Saddam Hussein flagrantly defies the United Nations. His henchmen busily conceal poison gas, germ weapons and missiles. The world community, outraged, summons all of its courage and indignation and responds with... a travel ban on some Iraqi officials. No more shopping at Harrods for Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz — that'll show 'em. And meanwhile, Iraq continues to bar UN inspectors from checking on its illegal weapons programs.

U.S. officials portrayed Wednesday's Security Council vote as a great victory. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright was "very pleased," her spokesman said, "that the entire world community has united." Saddam Hussein "tried to drive a wedge through the coalition, and instead he ran into a brick wall of unanimity," the spokesman said.

But the United States could only entice France, Russia and China into that unanimous position by watering down to near meaninglessness the resolution to be approved. Saddam Hussein doesn't let most of his people out of the country anyway, and the United Nations didn't even whisper the possibility of military action. Iraq, which already has threatened to shoot down U.S. planes, responded to the UN Security Council vote with another brazen threat — to expel all Americans on the UN inspection team.

It's worth recalling how we got to this point. Iraq invaded and occupied Kuwait, an independent but small and

helpless neighbor. The United States assembled an alliance to force Iraq to withdraw. After its defeat in that 1991 war, Iraq — as a condition of cease-fire — agreed to allow UN inspectors to make sure it no longer was seeking to produce nuclear weapons.

Secretly, Saddam Hussein immediately resumed a covert program to retain and bolster Iraq's poison gas and germ warfare arsenal; it admitted as much in 1995 but promised (again) to desist. This time we're really, really telling the truth, Iraqi officials claimed. Since then, Iraq's interference with UN inspectors and its concealment of documents and weaponry has only increased. And all this from a regime that has used poison gas on its own people, that attempted to assassinate President George Bush, that launched Scud missiles at Israel.

Maintaining an anti-Iraq coalition is a worthy tactic, but it is not the prime goal here. The goal is, must be, to make clear that the United States will not allow Saddam Hussein to maintain and rebuild a deadly arsenal, to threaten millions of people with death by anthrax, to flout every rule of civilized behavior.

If the United States is firm in that determination, other nations will more likely come along. Whether they do or not, the United States cannot flinch from its strategic purpose — a purpose that has little in common with travel bans on Saddam Hussein's lackeys.

—THE WASHINGTON POST.

## Big Labor's Mistake

The refusal of House Democrats to give the leader of their party "fast-track" authority to negotiate trade pacts is disturbing testimony to the power of organized labor's campaign money — and of flagrantly false rhetoric.

Opponents declared that their action would prevent President Bill Clinton from entering into another pact as "harmful" as the North American Free Trade Agreement, signed with Mexico and Canada in 1993.

After all, Mexico soon sank into recession and created a trade deficit for the United States. But Nora Lustig of the Brookings Institution shows that NAFTA's impact on America has been trivial.

The Mexican economic crisis, not NAFTA, created the trade deficit.

The revealing fact is that Mexico's recession drove exports from Europe and Japan down by about 25 percent while exports from the United States under NAFTA fell only about 2 percent. Contrary to Ross Perot's jeremiad, the number of displaced American workers has been small,

and most of them quickly found new jobs.

Fast-track opponents raised the fear-mongering claim that trade with developing countries creates a race to the bottom for the wages of American workers. But American wages closely mirror American productivity. Trade cannot threaten productivity in American companies, so it does not threaten the wages of most American workers.

Indeed, history shows that trade boosts productivity, raising wages in America and, even faster, in previously low-wage countries such as South Korea and Taiwan. The race, then, is to the top.

There is a legitimate concern that imports, though driving consumer prices lower for everyone, can whittle down the wages of America's least-skilled workers. But the actual impact has been small and there are far better ways to help the few displaced workers who are forced into lower-paying jobs than to stomp on trade and thereby make the entire country substantially poorer.

—THE NEW YORK TIMES.

## Quack, Quack

If President Bill Clinton can't get the trade bill passed, what else can't he do? That's the policy question of a political question: Is Mr. Clinton, never a particular favorite of many members of his own party anyway, already becoming something of a lame duck?

In the budget agreement earlier this year, the president and congressional Republicans finessed the hard questions of what to do about Social Security and Medicare, the costs of which will far outstrip available revenues when the baby boomers begin to retire not that many years from now. Yes, that's the basic budget issue the United States faces, but they weren't yet ready to deal with it. The president indicated he'd have proposals later in his term.

But congressional Democrats — most House Democrats, anyway — aren't eager to tamper with either of these programs, which they see as central to the party's political prospects and pillars of what it stands for. If he couldn't get them to vote for a trade bill, how will he get them to vote for long-term change in either of these? Likely answer: He probably won't.

Taxes are another issue. In his first budget, President Clinton, to his great credit, successfully fought to restore a part of the progressive edge the tax code had lost in the Reagan-Bush years immediately preceding. In the current budget, however, he acquiesced in a series of regressive tax cuts that dulled that accomplishment.

Now congressional Republicans want to take the further step of either

flattening the income tax or replacing it with a national sales tax. The president resists, and in this case has most congressional Democrats on his side. But his political instinct when confronted with similar issues in the past has been to try to blur and neutralize them by adopting some part of the Republican position. Where, if sufficiently pressed, will he finally come out on this one, and with what effect? Again, not clear.

Mr. Clinton says he will come back next year, election year, with a revised position on trade that will somehow win the votes and accomplish the purpose that eluded him this year. Maybe. He continues to say he wants campaign finance reform, but assuming that he means it, where does he find the clout to achieve it? He hopes somehow to summon the country to begin reducing emissions of the greenhouse gases causing global warming. Where does the clout, not to mention the credibility, for that come from?

The president has shown himself in the past to be a remarkably resilient politician, a skilled reformulator, when necessary, of both the issues and his own positions. And he has, on each of these basic and difficult issues, a direct reaction in which it's pretty clear he would prefer to travel. He has confounded those who have written him off before, and it would be a mistake to write him off on the strength just of the trade vote. But the rest of his second term already looked like an uphill climb, and now that climb is a lot steeper.

—THE WASHINGTON POST.

## Plotting Politics on the New Globalization Graph

By Thomas L. Friedman

WASHINGTON — Well, I guess it's official now: America has a four-party system.

That's the most important lesson to come out of Monday's decision by congressional Democrats to reject President Bill Clinton's request for "fast-track" authority to sign more international free-trade agreements. I see a silver lining in what Congress did, even though it was haphazard. Maybe now at least the American public, and the business community, will fully understand what politics are increasingly about in the United States and will focus on which of America's four parties they want to join.

Me, I'm an Integrationist-Social-Safety-Netter. How about you?

To figure out which party you're in, let me again offer the Friedman matrix of globalization politics. Take a piece of paper and draw a line across the middle from east to west. This is the globalization line, where you locate how you feel about the way in which technology and open markets are combining to integrate more and more of the world.

At the far right end of this line are the Integrationists. These are people who believe that free trade and integration are either inevitable or good; they want to promote more trade agreements and

Internet connections from one end of the world to the other, 24 hours a day.

Next go to the far left end of this line. These are the Separatists. These are people who believe free trade and technological integration are neither good nor inevitable; they want to stop them in their tracks.

So first locate yourself somewhere on this line between Separatists and Integrationists.

Now draw another line from north to south through the middle of the globalization line. This is the distribution line. It defines what you believe should go along with globalization to cushion its worst social, economic and environmental impacts.

At the southern end of this line are the Social-Safety-Netters.

These are people who believe that we need to package global integration with programs that will assist the "know-nots" and "have-nots," who lack the skills to take advantage of the new economy or who get caught up in the job-churning that goes with globalization and are unemployed or driven into poorer-paying jobs.

The Safety-Netters also want programs to improve labor and environmental standards in developing countries rushing headlong into the global economy.

At the northern tip of this distribution line are the Let-Them-Eat-Cakers. These are people who believe that globalization is winner-take-all, loser-take-care-of-yourself.

Now everyone in the fast-track debate is in my matrix: Bill Clinton is an Integrationist-Social-Safety-Netter.

Newt Gingrich is an Integrationist-Let-Them-Eat-Caker. Dick Gephardt is a Separatist-Social-Safety-Netter and Ross Perot is a Separatist-Let-Them-Eat-Caker.

That's why Mr. Clinton and Mr. Gingrich are allies on free trade but opponents on social welfare, and why Mr. Gephardt and Mr. Perot are allies against more free trade but opponents on social welfare.

As I said, I'm an Integrationist-Social-Safety-Netter. I believe that the technologies weaving the world more tightly together cannot be stopped and that integration of markets can only be reversed at a very, very high cost. Bill Clinton is right about that and Dick Gephardt and the unions are wrong.

But Mr. Gephardt and the unions are right that globalization is as creatively destructive as the earlier versions of capitalism, which destroyed feudalism and communism. With all its positives, globalization does churn new jobs and destroy old ones, it does widen gaps between those with knowledge skills and those without them, it does weaken bonds of community. And the Clinton team, the business community and all the workers already benefiting from the information economy never took these dark sides seriously enough.

One hopes they now realize that this is one of the most fundamental issues — maybe THE most fundamental issue — in American politics.

You can't just give a speech about it one month before the vote, you can't just have your company buy an ad supporting it the day before the vote, you can't just summon a constituency for it on the eve of the vote. You have to build a real politics of Integrationist-Social-Safety-Nettism — a politics that can show people the power and potential of global integration while taking seriously their need for safety nets to protect them along the way. Build it and they will come.

The New York Times.

## What Hungarians Should Ask Themselves About NATO

By Tasos Kokkinides and Alistair Millar

LONDON — In a national referendum this Sunday, Hungarians will be asked whether they want NATO to guarantee their security.

Over the last six months or so, the Atlantic alliance and Hungary's Defense Ministry have pumped millions of dollars into a slick ad campaign to ensure that the answer is "yes." Unfortunately, a large number of people in this fledgling democracy will make a significant decision about their future without having witnessed an informed and balanced debate on the subject.

Nobody has made the Hungarians, or for that matter the Poles and the Czechs, aware of the fine print. NATO membership is not going to be free, and Eastern Europeans will spend precious resources to buy hollow assurances. In turn, Western weapons manufacturers are entering a lucrative market worth at least \$35 billion, selling fighter aircraft and at-

tack helicopters to a region that does not need them and cannot afford them.

Eastern Europeans are keen to make a clean break with their Communist past and become part of Europe again. However, very few ask why membership in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization is a precondition for this. Opinion polls indicate that membership in the European Union is a much more attractive option for these nations, which face no significant military threat and need market reforms to fuel sustainable economies.

What is Hungary going to get out of membership in the alliance, after increasing its defense budget in order to meet NATO's compatibility and interoperability standards?

Before the Hungarians sign off on NATO membership, they should consider two state-

ments from the Clinton administration.

The first was made by Secretary of State Madeleine Albright during a trip to Eastern Europe.

"Above all," she said, NATO membership "means you will always be able to rely on us and we will always rely on you."

If there is a threat to peace and security, she continued, "we will be bound by a solemn commitment to defeat it together."

The second statement came from President Bill Clinton in a letter to Congress, and offered a far less reassuring assessment of NATO's security guarantee.

"Article V" — which stipulates that an attack on one NATO member is an attack on all members — "does not define what actions would constitute an attack or prejudice what alliance decisions might

be made in such circumstances," he said. "Member states acting in accordance with established constitutional processes are required to exercise individual and collective judgment over this question."

The U.S. administration speaks of guarantees for Eastern Europe when talking to Eastern Europeans but of loopholes when talking to Congress.

Hungarians believe NATO membership will tie their security to that of the United States. But in the unlikely case that Hungarian security was threatened, Budapest could expect Washington and its European allies to profess solidarity and make threatening statements but to take little, if any, real action.

Article V of the 1949 NATO treaty is not an automatic guarantee of assistance. Of course, the allies would consult in the event of an attack on a NATO member state, but it is unlikely

that they would respond to any threat that did not directly threaten their own security.

The needs of Europe and the United States in the post-Cold War era are now more realistically met by collective security organizations, not military alliances. Hungarians might consider whether a more inclusive, less expensive alternative to NATO would better serve their interests.

The real question to ask the Hungarians about NATO, though, is this: Are you going to get what you are paying for? At the end of the day, this question probably won't receive the "yes" that the NATO advertising campaign has aimed for.

The writers are analysts at the British American Security Information Council, an independent research organization. They contributed this comment to the International Herald Tribune.

## Democratic Philippines Will Surmount Asia's Troubles

By Bernardo M. Villegas

MANILA — While its neighbors in Southeast Asia will experience a significant slowdown in the growth of their exports, the Philippines is set to increase its overseas sales of manufactured goods by more than 20 percent this year. This achievement is especially notable because the Philippine peso has depreciated in value against the U.S. dollar less than the Thai baht, the Indonesian rupiah and the Malaysian ringgit.

But the Philippines' competitive advantage goes far beyond the devaluing of its currency. The financial turmoil in Asia has vindicated the efforts of the Philippines to make democracy and development

compatible. As President Fidel Ramos and other Philippine leaders have doggedly maintained, in contrast with the conventional wisdom among the authoritarian leaders of East Asia, democratic practices are in the long run also good for sustainable economic development.

The long run has arrived for the Philippines. Considered the most open society in East Asia, it is now reaping the economic benefits from what previously were regarded as handicaps to achieving economic progress: an American-style democratic form of government; a free

press bordering on the licentious; the proliferation of nongovernmental organizations advocating a wide range of causes, and mass access to higher education.

The Philippines represents diversity of values, religions, traditions, views, opinions, interests and backgrounds. Its error in the past was to nurture a closed and protectionist economy. After a decade of liberalization, privatization and deregulation, the country now has both a market economy and institutions that ensure political freedom.

The Philippines stands out in East Asia as having the most

politically stable future. It has resolved the political succession problem still bedeviling many of its neighbors. Precisely because of the effective checks and balances among the three branches of government and between the state and civil society, recent controversy over the constitution was peacefully resolved.

Responding to public clamor that he not try for a second term through an amendment to the constitution, President Ramos promised that he would step down on June 30, 1998, as scheduled. None of the leading contenders for the presidency is expected to introduce any significant departure from the market-oriented policies put in place by Mr. Ramos' government.

The lively debates that followed the overthrow of the Marcos regime in 1986 have gradually led to a consensus on liberal economic policies among all the important political parties. Even the most populist presidential candidate — Vice President Joseph Estrada, who according to polls is the leading contender — has openly declared his support for the economic policies of Mr. Ramos.

The most decisive competitive edge of the Philippines is its abundant pool of highly educated, skilled and English-speaking manpower. Thanks to its American-style democracy, the country has provided mass access to higher education, in contrast with the elitist approach

that most of its neighbors inherited from their European colonizers. The Philippines' predominantly privately financed university system has produced a bumper crop of highly trainable workers who are praised by foreign investors.

Even the Philippines' gridlock-prone system of government, in which the legislative process moves at snail's pace and the Supreme Court frequently interferes in economic decision-making, provides some blessings in disguise.

It has allowed the economy to grow at the moderate but sustainable rate of 5 to 6 percent annually over the last three years, preventing the overheating that has caused the current problems in Thailand, Indonesia and Malaysia. The never-ending debates on the form not substance of market-oriented policies have actually helped the Philippines avoid the "bubble" situation faced by many of its neighbors.

A rosy economic future for the Philippines is not necessarily a foregone conclusion. But its chances of bouncing back from the current turmoil are much brighter than those of many other countries in East Asia, thanks to political freedom. The long-term gamble on democracy is finally paying off.

The writer, dean of the school of Economics at the University of Asia and the Pacific, contributed this comment to the International Herald Tribune.

## For a Global Peoples Assembly

By Andrew Strauss and Richard Falk

WILMINGTON, Delaware — The recent dramatic announcements of record-setting contributions to international causes by Ted Turner and George Soros suggest tremendous possibilities for the future.

These two men signify the rise of a new breed of global philanthropist active in fashioning an international civil society. It was globalization that gave them the opportunities to amass extraordinary wealth. It now provides them and others with a unique opportunity to contribute to human well-being.

This includes pushing for the democratization of the global order, a goal that governments are reluctant to promote.

Such individuals could do this most imaginatively by providing funds for the establishment of a popularly elected Global Peoples Assembly, which would provide the world's citizens for the first time with a forum to express their planetary aspirations and grievances outside the traditional nation-state context.

Elections for this assembly could be organized and administered by an international citizens' committee and overseen by the respected Swedish organization International Democratic Elections Assistance, or IDEA. Once established, the assembly could lobby governments for formal recognition within the UN system.

To begin with, however, such an assembly would have an international legal status similar to that of nongovernmental organizations like the Red Cross or Amnesty International. Unlike them, however, it could lay claim to speak on behalf of the peoples of the world. As the only such body, it would have

the potential to be highly influential even before receiving formal recognition.

Specifically, how would this assembly make its influence felt? Like the UN General Assembly, whose official powers are largely recommendatory, such an assembly would contribute to the creation of planetary norms of behavior by issuing resolutions and proclamations, and more generally by expressing views on critical issues of global policy.

In a more and more integrated world that increasingly ascribes to democratic principles, the case for such an assembly seems unassailable.

First, because the globalization of the world economy inevitably requires the development of global regulatory institutions, the preservation of freedoms now enjoyed demands we begin to structure these institutions along democratic lines.

Second, the very existence of a citizen-controlled international assembly would both ideologically and practically reinforce democratic practices within countries and undermine authoritarianism.

Third, allowing representatives from different countries and civilizations to work together to advance mutual interests and discuss differences in an assembly setting would help promote a climate of civility in global affairs, encouraging universal values to prevail over more parochial concerns, as well as over sectarian loyalties and beliefs.

Finally, the establishment of such a global assembly with direct electoral accountability to

workers, peasants and other citizens would give currently vulnerable groups a voice and help them regain some of the power lost to international capital as a result of globalization.

The major argument likely to be advanced against such an undertaking is that it is naive, idealistic and, at best, premature. To be sure, logistical problems would have to be overcome. Worldwide elections would have to be independently organized. A voting formula based upon one person, one vote would have to be put into place, and elections would need to be certified as free and fair.

There would, of course, be glitches. Some governments would undoubtedly not allow such elections to occur on their territories, and until sufficient pressure could be brought to bear their citizens would have to go unrepresented. But these problems would not be fatal to the endeavor.

There is no reason to think this lies beyond the realm of the possible. Indeed, a bold, visionary undertaking at the start of a new millennium might activate the political and moral imagination of all those who aspire to construct a world order more responsive to the values associated with democracy.

Those with the resources have the capacity to make this proposal a reality by seizing the initiative and promoting the democratization of the emerging international order. Democracy at the global level is needed and long overdue.

Mr. Strauss and Mr. Falk, international law professors at Widener and Princeton Universities, respectively, contributed this to the Herald Tribune.

## IN OUR PAGES: 100, 75 AND 50 YEARS AGO

### 1897: A Glass Eye

LONDON — Mr. Henry Smith, a well-known veterinary surgeon practicing at Worthing, has just performed a professional operation which is believed to be unique. A fox terrier belonging to Mr. Wells, of Warwick-road, Worthing, had the misfortune to have one of its eyes so shockingly injured that the removal of the organ was the only alternative to the destruction of the terrier. Mr. Smith was consulted and the dog left under his charge. Chloroform was administered, and Mr. Smith successfully removed the injured eyeball, replacing it with a glass eye. The terrier is now running about as usual.

### 1922: Racial Decision

WASHINGTON — Japanese are not white within the meaning of the American law and so are not entitled to American citizenship, according to a decision handed down by the United States Supreme Court in upholding the California Court of Appeals in a test case brought by Takao Ozawa, of Honolulu, who claimed that he is white and consequently eligible for American citizenship. Ozawa contended that he is entitled to citizenship as a descendant of the white tribe Aizu, and he began his fight several years ago in Hawaii. He has lived in Hawaii since his childhood.

### 1947: Dalton Resigns

LONDON — Hugh Dalton resigned tonight [Nov. 13] as Chancellor of the Exchequer of the Labor government after admitting to the House of Commons that he had "leaked" advance information on his budget speech to a London newspaper. Sir Stafford Cripps, Minister of Economic Affairs, was immediately appointed his successor.

## Herald Tribune

ESTABLISHED 1887

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Tel.: (1) 41.43.93.00. Fax: Subscriptions, (1) 41.43.92.10; Advertising, (1) 41.43.92.12; News, (1) 41.43.93.38.  
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S.A.S. au capital de 1.200.000 F. RCS Nanterre B 732021126. Commission Paritaire No. 61337  
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OPINION/LETTERS

## Untangle America's Policy And Isolate Kabila Regime

By David Aronson

WASHINGTON — When Laurent Kabila's troops marched into Kinshasa in May to proclaim the Democratic Republic of Congo, they were greeted with a guarded enthusiasm that reflected both uncertainty about their new leader's intentions and gratitude for the overthrow of the reviled Mobutu Sese Seko. This mixture of hope and apprehension was widely shared in the outside world, with The Economist, for example, cautioning that President Kabila would face challenges to test the talents of a Lincoln or a Mandela.

Though in retrospect it seems to have been wishful thinking, there were, in those early days of May, some reasons for hope. Mr. Kabila had spontaneously organized a scattering of spot elections: some of his ministers, at least, possessed impressive enough credentials. And while rumors of his background did not exactly reassure, one could hope that he had left the indolent Marxism of his youth behind him.

What a difference a few months can make. The rumors of widespread massacres that trailed messily in Mr. Kabila's wake have long since proven terribly accurate. Ethnic fratricide has broken out in the east. In Kinshasa, presidential corruption has again become the order of the day, even as more and more journalists and opposition leaders are jailed and beaten.

Congolese increasingly view Mr. Kabila as a quisling from neighboring Rwanda and ask how Americans would feel if the United States were to be conquered by Cuba — an analogy that is not wholly inexact.

There has been zero movement toward democratization, and Mr. Kabila's behavior is increasingly erratic and irrational. The situation in Congo presents U.S. policymakers with unusually complex choices. On the one hand is the historical

obligation owed a people who suffered for 30 years under a tyrant installed by the CIA. On the other hand, Mr. Kabila has revealed himself as little more than a village bully, and conscience rebels against cooperating with a government that has come to power with blood on its hands.

Current U.S. policy reflects these tensions, which it attempts to resolve by simple averaging. This, at any rate, can be the only explanation for the embarrassing \$8 million aid package the United States is proposing for the current fiscal year.

We need to observe a basic distinction between aid that operates through the government, which often has the effect of bolstering and legitimizing its rule, and aid that bypasses government institutions, works with indigenous local nongovernmental organizations to alleviate suffering and helps buttress the institutions of civil society.

The fact that the Congolese civil society has essentially functioned, since the collapse of the Mobutist state in the early 1990s, as a substitute provider of services and social authority makes it a good candidate for receiving aid. An amount on the order of \$100 million disbursed annually to this sector would not be out of line.

At the same time, the United States should seek to isolate this new regime, and apply to it all the sanctions and international opprobrium that crimes against humanity should automatically elicit. We Americans have the keys to the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, as well as to the Olympics and the UN Security Council. Private companies, such as Bechtel, that seek to do business with Mr. Kabila should be made aware that collaborating with mass killers is not good for the corporate image.

Goals in isolating this new regime should be clear: first, to force it to allow



THE UNITED NATIONS' human rights inquiry to proceed. Second, to force it to hold free and fair national elections.

Why such a priority on elections? A Kabila dictatorship cannot be allowed to take root, and elections are the only way to secure a peaceful transition. By holding out hope for Congo's increasingly angry populace, the prospect of an election would also reduce the likelihood of ethnic violence, urban chaos and armed conflict.

One of the most frustrating aspects of the current debate on U.S. policy toward the region is the recurrence of the same old bromides heard during the Mobutu years. It's Mr. Kabila or chaos, say those who would have us collaborate with this regime. Supporters of this argument, however, never quite specify just how aid prevents chaos. In fact, the empirical evidence suggests the opposite: What Liberia, Somalia, Sudan and Zaire have in common, aside from being the African basket cases of the 1990s, is that they were major recipients of American largesse in the '70s and '80s.

At the same time that we pursue a policy of constructive opposition to the Kabila regime, we need to renew our efforts to bring an end to the impunity that has been the ultimate source of so much bloodshed in Central Africa. The very Rwandans who endured the genocide of 1994 are responsible for the preponderance of massacres committed during Mr. Kabila's war. One's judgment of them must be tempered by a humility before the horror they endured.

Strengthening the institutions that were established to deal with the 1994 genocide, extending their mandate to include the slaughters of 1997 and making Central Africa a far higher priority for senior foreign policymakers, would go some of the way toward treating the still gaping wounds of that region.

The writer, who visited the Democratic Republic of Congo in June on a fact-finding mission for the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, contributed this column to The Washington Post.

## When Sports and TV Stop Playing Fair

By Richard Reeves

NEW YORK — Like many people around here, the first newspaper I found was the New York Daily News. When I was an impressionable kid, I used the tabloid's photos, drawings and box scores in my album dedicated to America's premier organization, the Brooklyn Dodgers. My team went west, and the paper of my boyhood

throwing a girl out a window or going to town and beating up the locals. And if the local paper or a television station reports on it, as they have in Seattle and Boise, Idaho, reporters are attacked as disloyal to town and team.

There are hardly any real teams left, just franchises like the Florida Marlins who went on a shopping spree to win the World Series. The players are being stamped all over by Nike to the point that they look like they're wearing big Laura Ashley patterns. It doesn't matter how well or badly anyone plays: a guy like Avery gets more than \$500,000 a victory because he was once terrific back in Atlanta.

I hate the moving around of franchises and players. I do not resent nearly as much that the players cash in, because basically they are entertainers getting a piece of the paid audience. I have also traveled with the New York Mets and was impressed by the players' fear of injury — one bad break and they were unemployed.

In football, I've seen the field filled on "old-timers" days with the fastest and strongest of a generation now crippled by arthritis and muddled by head injuries. Was it worth the risk? To them, yes. They had sold their youth for enough money to live out their lives. Who am I to criticize?

The person I criticize is myself, mesmerized by things that should not matter much and are dishonest at the core. The game is fixed.

I don't mean the score on the field; I mean the partnership of sports and television — especially tough-talking broadcasters and analysts. Remember NBC rearranging the Olympics last year in Atlanta to serve its own purposes?

Slumped on the couch in some kind of stupor watching the Philadelphia Eagles, I saw a camera drift to the sidelines where the quarterback Ty Detmer and a running back, Ricky Waters, were shouting and pushing each other around. What was that about? asked one of the broadcasters after the game. His partner on the field said he could not find out because reporters were told not to talk to those two players.

Anyway, it's my own fault. I wish I'd just grow up.

Universal Press Syndicate.

almost went south several times under various owners.

But the News survives. Flipping through the paper's 20 full pages of sports, I stopped for a moment to read a small feature called Sports Wire, a bullet-by-bullet collection of stories that almost didn't make it. This is the entire "baseball" section of the wire.

• Former Red Sox outfielder Wilfredo Cordero pleaded guilty in Cambridge, Massachusetts, to beating and threatening his wife. He received a 90-day sentence (suspended by the judge), and must attend regular batterers' counseling sessions.

• Indians outfielder Manny Ramirez was found guilty of four minor traffic violations while two other citations were dropped. Ramirez was fined \$225 plus court costs.

• Former Angels outfielder Tony Phillips pleaded guilty to misdemeanor cocaine possession and was ordered into a drug program that could clear his record.

• Steve Avery exercised his \$3.9 million option with Boston after going 6-7 with a 6.42 ERA. Under "hockey" the first item was: "Hurricanes G. Sean Burke, charged with assaulting his wife, was expected to return to practice today in Raleigh, North Carolina. He was released from jail ..."

Under "basketball" it read: "Shaquille O'Neal was suspended for tonight's game at Sacramento and fined \$10,000 by the NBA for hitting Utah center Greg Ostertag between practice sessions on Friday ... costing O'Neal one game's pay — \$156,794."

Why do I follow sports anymore? Many of the players are obviously out of control. For every Michael Jordan, there seems to be some college jock

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### On Scientology

Once again, the "Church" of Scientology is in the news.

A meeting in Washington on Nov. 5 between the U.S. secretary of state, Madeleine Albright, and Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel of Germany included, as a topic of conversation, the status of a "religion" whose doctrine states that human beings are clusters of spirits formerly trapped in ice and banished to Earth about 75 million years ago by the ruler of a 26-

planet Galactic Confederation named Xenu.

Meanwhile, war crimes go unpunished in the former Yugoslavia; the body count climbs in Algeria; the people of Sierra Leone face mass starvation; chemical weapons are missing from former Soviet laboratories; Europe is integrating; NATO is expanding. Inexplicably, the United States spends its time defending the legitimacy of a religion that, from 1968 until 1993, was considered illegitimate under U.S. tax law.

As an American lawyer living in Frankfurt, I cannot help but feel ashamed. How can the U.S. government criticize Germany for regarding Scientology as a business and not as a tax-exempt religion, a legal ruling the United States held for 25 years? Could it really be possible under U.S. immigration law that, by the mere act of not being given tax-exempt status, German Scientologists would be allowed to seek asylum in the United States for religious persecution? Above all, why must Germany

subscribe to the same religious definitions as the United States?

Despite my rigorous training as an advocate, and despite an American attorney's ability to jump from one side of an issue to the other with barely a pause, I admit to being completely baffled by these questions and by the conduct of my country concerning this subject. I would rather our foreign ministers spent more time talking about Iraq, Africa, the policy of engagement in China, even the recent manslaughter conviction of the 19-year-old British

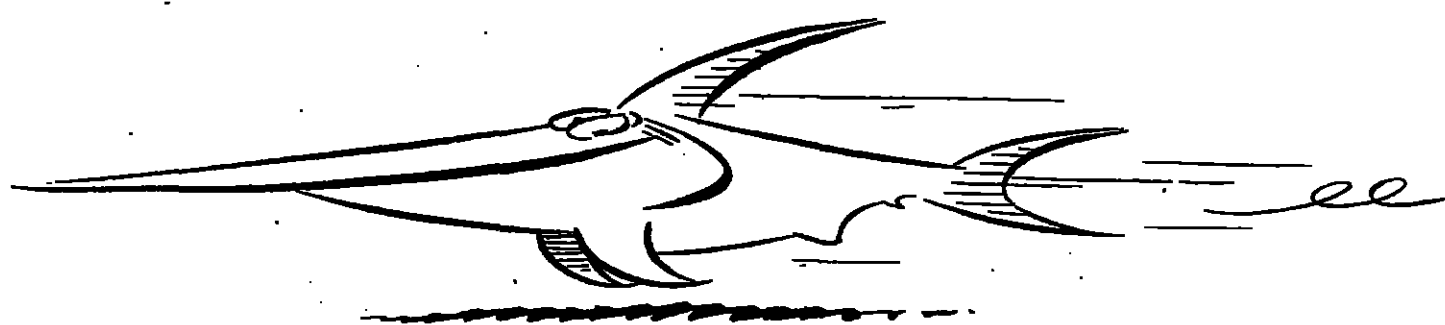
nanny. As for the topic of Scientology, it simply leaves me with a feeling of shame.

JOHN H. ZANE,  
Frankfurt.

### A Keeling Euro?

So the new little Mercedes-Benz keels over at the first sign of trouble. It makes you wonder if that other grand German design, the single European currency, will hold the road any better.

CHRISTOPHER NICOL,  
Carnes.



## IN GLOBAL COMMUNICATIONS ONE SUPPLIER IS BETTER THAN MANY.

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## Promenades Add Sparkle to San Francisco Waterfront

By Ann K. Ludwig

**S**AN FRANCISCO—Bridge to bridge and beyond, the San Francisco waterfront has never looked better or offered more to visitors and residents. No longer are the attractions limited to Fisherman's Wharf, that well-touristed half mile of the peninsula's 21 miles of coastline. Thanks to a shrinking military presence, a destructive earthquake and an energetic citizenry, the waterfront is being returned to the people.

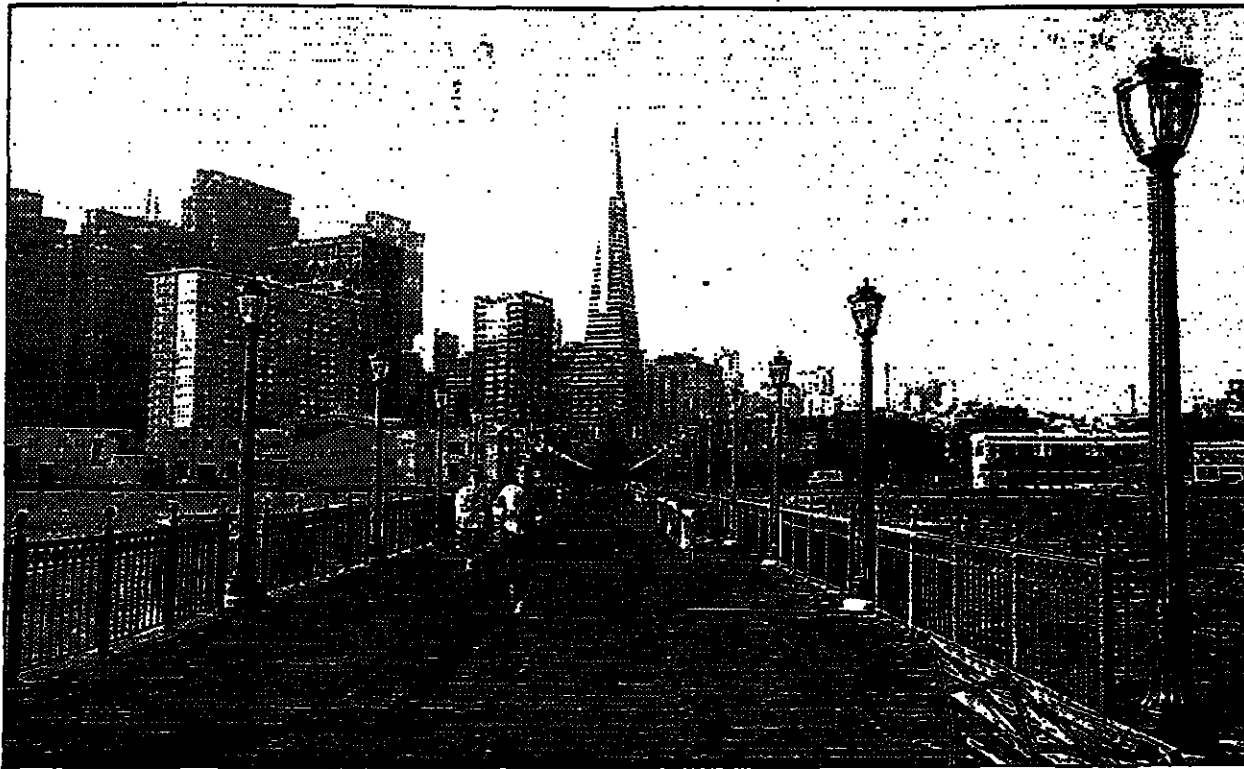
The Embarcadero Freeway, which separated the central city from its historic waterfront, was doomed by the 1989 earthquake and demolished in 1991. With its removal, the shoreline renaissance began in earnest.

Replacing the freeway is a handsome palm-lined pedestrian promenade that passes alongside the new South Beach Marina and Park, beneath the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge and, with a break near the Ferry Building, all the way north to Fisherman's Wharf. To the west near the Golden Gate Bridge, dozens of "temporary" military buildings that were 50-year-old eyesores and acres of asphalt have been removed near a favorite running and walking path, the Golden Gate Promenade, which passes through the Presidio.

The first of many changes brought by the transfer in 1994 of the historic Presidio army post to the national park system, these improvements have already transformed the popular trail and beach.

A tour that begins with a stroll along the south Embarcadero, in the South Beach area, overlooking San Francisco Bay might conclude with a meal at the newly restored Beach Chalet at the west end of Golden Gate Park overlooking the Pacific Ocean—10 miles (16 kilometers) of glorious bay and coastline.

**PALMS AND SYCAMORES** A driving, walking, skating or biking trip could begin at Pier 40, where Townsend Street intersects the Embarcadero at South Beach Harbor. Rotting piers and derelict buildings once deterred visitors from the south Embarcadero in spite of its relative banana-belt weather and bay views. Now, sparkling new apartment complexes have replaced the old shoreline buildings, views are framed with palms and sycamores along the prom-



San Francisco's shoreline renaissance has created an extensive promenade for pedestrians and joggers.

enade, and a new marina and South Beach Park lend color to the scene. Just west of the park, the site of a baseball stadium scheduled to open in spring of 2000 is already linked to downtown by a light-rail line on which limited service is expected in 1998.

In South Beach Park, artists sometimes set up their easels on the lawn beneath the colossal red and silver Mark di Suvero sculpture, called "Sea Change," that bestrides the lawn. Picknickers and dog walkers also gather here to relax and watch the boats. Sailing cruises are available at Pier 40 as are rental bikes, and tempting outdoor cafes refresh the explorer.

For history buffs, the walk north to the Bay Bridge and beyond is a treasure hunt for the 13-foot-high black, white and yellow pylons and bronze sidewalk plaques chronicling the city's colorful nautical past.

They commemorate the barks, brigantines and schooners that once lined this shore, as well as the men who built and sailed them, and the ill-fated whales

that made San Francisco one of the largest whaling ports in the world between 1885 and 1905. Stories, photographs, poetry and drawings are reproduced on the pylons, which mark historic locations, such as the Pacific Mail Dock, central point of immigration and departure of San Francisco's Chinese population from 1867 to 1907.

### RIBBON OF GLASS

As you proceed north, the Bay Bridge arches above, its suspension span crossing the bay to Yerba Buena Island, where it converts to cantilever-truss design to complete the 8.4-mile link to Oakland. Curving along the sidewalk for nearly half a mile is a ribbon of glass blocks lighted by fiber optic cable and set in concrete, some of it raised for use as benches or tables. Known as the Promenade Ribbon, this user-friendly public art, designed by Vito Acconci, Stanley Salowitz and Barbara Stauffacher Solomon, inspires toddlers to climb and adolescents to jump, but the

majority to pause and contemplate city and bay views or the passing parade of joggers, skaters and strollers.

At Pier 32, near where Brannan Street intersects the Embarcadero, is the home of the Jeremiah O'Brien, the only surviving unaltered World War II Liberty ship. Saved from salvage in 1978 and carefully restored, the ship and a volunteer crew whose average age was 72 made news when they sailed to Normandy in 1994 for the 50th anniversary of the invasion, after which the O'Brien was moored here. You can meet the enthusiastic crew and learn about the role of Liberty ships in the war or simply enjoy an unparalleled view of the bridge and the city. From the Jeremiah O'Brien you will soon pass under the Bay Bridge some 10 stories overhead, and go by the historic fireboat station and the popular new Gordon Biersch Brewery Restaurant to reach the landmark 1898 Ferry Building, about a half-mile farther at the foot of Market Street. The central Embarcadero near the Ferry Building at the foot of Market Street is a work in pro-

gress, but already the Ferry Plaza Farmers' Market and the Victorian Pier 7 have revived the downtown waterfront.

The Farmers' Market was established in 1993 as the first step in developing a permanent public market. On Saturdays, it draws thousands to a tent-shaded festival that features a cornucopia of potatoes, tomatoes, squash, mushrooms, herbs, cheeses, nuts and olive oils.

**SEASONAL FARE** Inspired by the odors of fresh-picked herbs and fresh-baked breads, shoppers browse, taste and fill bags to bulging. They can sample delicious seasonal fare from foodstalls operated by the Hayes Street Grill (for example, a fresh grilled salmon BLT, \$6.50).

Proceeding north toward Pier 39 along the walk named Herb Caen Way... for the well-known local columnist and his trademark ellipses... pedestrians may succumb to the charms of Pier 7, a seven-year-old fishing and strolling pier with Victorian lamps and wrought-iron railings framing views of Yerba Buena and Treasure Islands.

Inland, where there is now a dramatic skyline, Gold Rush vessels were once moored—excavation for the Transamerica Pyramid turned up the remains of one of them. At Pier 7 the Promenade Ribbon resumes and continues nearly a mile, almost to Bay Street.

Foot traffic picks up along here, and bicycle rickshaws called pedicabs pump along the roadway below Telegraph Hill taking riders past the cruise liners to Pier 39 and Fisherman's Wharf (by pedicab, it's about 1.3 miles and \$8 a person from the Ferry Building to Fisherman's Wharf). Construction has begun on Jefferson Street to complete the rail line that by the year 2000 is scheduled to bring the vintage trolleys already on Market Street along the Embarcadero to the wharves.

If you have children with you and they're beginning to tire, they may be ready for Pier 39's new Underwater World, where they can ride on a moving walkway in a see-through tunnel as sharks, rays and other fish swim over and alongside them. Braver kids may prefer the new adventure films, "Secrets of the Lost Temple" and the harrowing "Smash Factory," where you buckle into hydraulic moving seats and brace for whiplash. Since 1989, Pier 39 has also become the home to hundreds

of sea lions, which are in residence on the pier's west side in greatest number from January through April.

Other noteworthy changes to the city's waterfront have taken place about a mile and a half west of the Fisherman's Wharf area at Crissy Field, overlooking the Golden Gate in the Presidio. The much loved 2-mile-long section of the Golden Gate Promenade that follows the shoreline from the St. Francis Yacht Club at the foot of Baker Street and runs to the Golden Gate Bridge has long been open to the public, with great views of the Golden Gate Bridge and the bay. But with the military's exit in 1994, work was begun that will eventually turn Crissy Field, the site of the Panama-Pacific International Exposition of 1915 and later the first Army Air Service defense station on the West Coast, into the centerpiece of the new park. Instead of the deteriorated buildings and fenced storage areas near the east end of the walk, here one sees only the stately Monterey cypress, pine and eucalyptus. Wind-surfers can choose grassy areas to rig their boards where there was once asphalt; on restored dunes, yellow and pink sand verbena and beach strawberry are taking hold. A 28-acre meadow will eventually replicate the historic World War I grass airfield.

**A**S you walk west, massive bluffs above provide shelter from the wind. The two white-shingled buildings hugging the waterfront were formerly a Coast Guard station. The smaller one, a domed Cape Cod house crisply trimmed in green with window boxes of red geraniums, is now home to the Gorbachev Foundation State of the World Forum, star tenant of the new Presidio. Farther west, old maintenance sheds and a chain-link fence have been removed beneath the bluffs to reveal a future picnic area that already affords incomparable views of the city to the east and the Golden Gate Bridge and Marin Headlands to the west.

Construction is expected to begin in mid-1998 to restore a 20-acre tidal marsh, remove rubble from the beach, improve the pathway and provide picnic areas.

Ann K. Ludwig, who lives in San Francisco, wrote this for The New York Times.

## Visiting Miss Marple's Haunts in Christie's Hometown

By Iris Ildre Frey

**T**ORQUAY, England—But for the sweet charms of Torquay, an English seaside town, Agatha Christie might have grown up an American. Her father, Frederick Miller, born and brought up in Massachusetts, married an Englishwoman and expected to raise his family in the United States. The couple settled in the popular Victorian resort of Torquay, temporarily they thought, while awaiting the birth of baby Agatha. But the town's attractions caught them up and they never left.

Christie used her colorful hometown in many of her mysteries. And though she was born more than a century ago, the places she took Miss Marple for tea, Hastings and Poirot for dry martinis, and Tuppence and Tommy for tombstone deciphering, remain remarkably intact for those who wish to revisit the scenes of the crimes.

Torquay's sheltered deepwater harbor has been haven for pirates and rum runners, home base for the British Navy, and berth to magnificent racing sailboats. Situated on one of England's southernmost points, it is sheltered from high winds by seven hills and warmed by the Gulf Stream. It is the heart of the area known somewhat optimistically as the English Riviera, and has much of England's balmy weather, many of its palm trees and 10 beaches.

**TRANSFORMATION** Its transformation from a sleepy fishing village began when families of naval officers came to visit, liked the climate and stayed on. Doctors prescribed the town for ailing patients, who began arriving in great numbers—Jane Austen and Elizabeth Barrett Browning among them. Ornate Italianate villas became the favored architectural style and Torquay sup-

posedly had more European royal visitors to the square mile than any other place in the world.

In 1890, when Agatha Mary Clarissa arrived at Ashfield, the Millers' villa, this "Queen of the Watering Places" was a fashionable haven for rich Victorians. (Ashfield, unfortunately, no longer stands.)

A good first stop for Christie followers is the seaside Tourist Information Center just off the Strand, to pick up a map and a Christie Mile folder that features a walk around the harbor and entitles the bearer to museum admission discounts. (Outside the center's rear exit a handsome bronze statue of Christie dominates a small green.) The beautiful Princess Gardens, named for Queen Victoria's daughter Louise, lie between the center and the seaford. A pause at a bench amid the fountains, palm trees and lush flower beds offers a chance for orientation. The bench may be the same one occupied in "The A.B.C. Murders" by Alexander Bontemps (one of Christie's more abrasive murder suspects) while he read the newspaper account of a body discovered farther down the shoreline.

The remarkable building directly overlooking the harbor, with ornate parasol-shaped copper domes in each corner, is the Pavilion. Hailed as one of the finest examples of Art Nouveau in England, it arrived the same year that a handsome young officer came courting a beautiful local girl. After a concert at the Pavilion, Archie Christie proposed to Agatha Miller. Not surprisingly, she alluded to the Pavilion in several books. It was recently restored and converted to a mall with shops and cafe.

The Princess Gardens lead onto Princess Pier, a favorite playground for the author during her youth, when its smooth maple surface was available for off-season roller skating. Photographs of the teenager Agatha, dressed for skat-

ing in ankle-length skirt and large feathered hat, await viewers in the Torquay Museum, a handsome Victorian granite building festooned with crimson and gold banners.

In 1990, to mark the centennial of her birth, the museum mounted an exhibition tracing the nearly nine decades of her life. The exhibition, intended to be temporary, remains open because it attracts visitors from around the world. The show is rich in photographs drawn from both the museum archives and the author's family, and in artifacts such as Rosy, her French Jumeau doll. Life-size dioramas depict Christie in turn-of-the-century bathing costume and World War I nurse's uniform. Cases are crammed with such memorabilia as props used by the actors in the Poirot and Miss Marple television episodes—David Suchet's fastidiously pressed suit jacket, and the bottle of lily-of-the-valley toilet water Joan Hickson used to invoke the spirit of the spinster sleuth.

**KENTS Cavern**, another spot with Christie connections, is one of the earliest known sites of human life in England. Animal remains also found there include the mammoth, the cave bear and the woolly rhinoceros, the same creatures Christie's spelunking archaeologist discovers in "The Man in the Brown Suit." The formations are geologically outstanding—rugged roofs and contrasting chambers with beautiful crystal-white, red-brown and green frozen water, pagoda and pipe organ formations. Kents Cavern was open to the public when Christie was a child. From a schoolgirl's viewpoint, touring the candlelit caves would be both scary and splendid, and set the stage, perhaps, for her lifelong fascination with archaeology (she met her second husband at a dig). Today, year round, storytelling guides lead tours in the now electrically illuminated caves.

Two neighborhood churches figured in Christie's childhood. The first, St. Saviour's, is a small stone building that dates from the sixth century. When the congregation built a larger church called All Saints, Frederick Miller made a donation in the name of his newborn daughter. Blowzy bouquets of garden flowers arranged by ladies of the altar guild, incense, a fine organ and the staunch choir all add to the ritual of a Sunday morning Church of England service reminiscent of the ones attended by the churchgoing Miss Marple. An impressive marble font near the entrance recalls the baptism ceremony on the first page of "The Burden" (written under the pen name Mary Westmacott). Christie was baptized from it.

A short distance away, the churchyard of St. Saviour's (now used by the Greek Orthodox congregation of St. Andrews), is deep and dark with evergreens, and ancient tombstones enclose it like a melancholy fence. In "Postern of Fate" Tuppence and Tommy visit such a churchyard, hoping to solve a murder from inscriptions on the stones.

Visitors to the Agatha Christie Memorial Room in the Torre Abbey museum follow a route nearly identical to the one taken by Hercule Poirot when he is called to view a body in "The Under Dog"—up broad stairs to a landing, along a corridor and through a door, then along a short passage, through another door and finally into the lofty tower room.

**BRIC-A-BRAC** Torre Abbey was originally a monastery, then a private residence built in part from rubble and original remains, and now a museum. The Christie memorial room, like the room in "The Under Dog" has "many native curios arranged about." This bric-a-brac of the writer's life, provided



The Old Harbor at Torquay, where Agatha Christie grew up.

by her daughter, Rosalind Hicks, includes lace fans, a bellows, porcelain figurines, papier-mâché pieces and a sewing kit. To make the room look like the writer's study rather than a museum, its curator, Leslie Retallick, left the motley collection unlabeled. A tall case holds the black and scarlet robes Christie wore when nearby Exeter University made her an honorary doctor of letters, and her favorite wing chair sits by the window, as though to catch the

light for a reader settling down with a good mystery. But the item that most kindles a visitor's imagination is her black 1937 typewriter. Who would have thought the old Remington had so many wonderful words in it? (Her total output was 79 books, about 100 short stories and 9 plays.)

Iris Ildre Frey, who is writing a book about Agatha Christie's England, wrote this for The New York Times.

## In Bustling Buenos Aires, Spring Is Busting Out All Over

By Kevin M. Gray  
New York Times Service

**B**UENOS AIRES—This city is catching its rhythm again thanks to an improving economy that has put money back into the pockets of Argentines. As a result of the growth, new restaurants have opened and the city's nightlife has been reinvigorated. And the timing couldn't be better.

November is springtime in Buenos Aires, and there is no better season to stroll its wide avenues, crowded shopping streets and leafy parks. From San Telmo to Recoleta to Palermo, the city's many barrios, each with its distinctive character, begin to perk up with street fairs and well-dressed Argentines after a winter slumber. Even though it is one of the most expensive cities in the world it's also one of the safest. Families and elderly couples can be seen in the streets well after dark. Many attractions are central, furthering its reputation as a walker's city.

Widely regarded as Argentina's cultural gem, the gilded Colon Theater, which borders the main thoroughfare of Avenida 9 de Julio, offers an array of ballet, opera and concert perfor-

mances from April to December. Some of the world's top performers have graced its stage: Nureyev, Favarotti, Toscanini and the soprano Leona Mitchell.

Highlights of the spring schedule: The Philharmonic Orchestra of Buenos Aires will perform Nov. 17, 18 and 24, and Dec. 1. Under the direction of Mark Ermler, the theater's opera company will perform Tchaikovsky's "Eugene Onegin" on Dec. 2, 5, 7, 9 and 11. The Colon Ballet Company will perform Tchaikovsky's "Nutcracker" Dec. 19, 20, 21, 23 and 26. Tickets: (54-1) 382-5414, fax (54-1) 382-4009.

Throughout November, championship games of polo will be played at the Hippodrome in Palermo Park. The competition is world-class. Tickets, starting at \$7, are available at the Hippodrome the day of the match or through Ticketek, a local ticketing agency: (54-1) 323-7272.

The colorful barrio of La Boca along the Riachuelo waterway is home to working-class Argentines. Young artists and tango dancers line the pedestrian walkway of the *caminito*. A cornerstone of this area's revitalization is the Pros Foundation, 1929 Avenida Pedro de Man-

doza, (54-1) 303-0909, a new addition to the city's art world. From Nov. 22 through Jan. 10, an exhibition of the works of the Italian modernist Mario Sironi, paintings, murals and theatrical designs done between the world wars, will be on view.

The Museum of Fine Arts, (54-1) 803-0802 houses the country's largest art collection. Shows this month and next include works by Hermenegildo Sabat, Argentina's foremost political cartoonist and illustrator, and treasures from the Vatican Library. The museum is open Tuesday to Sunday, 12:30 to 7:30 P.M., Saturday 9:30 A.M. to 7:30 P.M., closed Monday. Admission is free.

### PICNIC IN THE PARK

Palermo Park provides a reprieve from sprawling urbanity. Here one can join a pickup soccer game, go for a jog, ride along the bike path or enjoy a picnic of *sandwiches de miga*—ham and cheese on white bread without the crust.

In the heart of one of the city's richest neighborhoods, the Recoleta Cemetery, almost a city

in itself, is the burial ground for Argentina's elite. Each tomb has a distinctive architectural style housing several generations of a family. A popular site is that of Eva Peron, whose body finally rests here after an odyssey that took it to Europe and back. To find her tomb ask a caretaker for the Duarte family or look for the crowd of fans.

Every Thursday around 3 P.M., the Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo, wearing white scarves, fill the square in front of the presidential palace, the Casa Rosada, to remember their children who disappeared during the "dirty war," a time of military rule.

To understand the fanaticism that surrounds soccer here, one must experience the passion and heat of a match. Buenos Aires is now home to Diego Maradona, once considered the world's best player. He has just retired for the eighth time from the hugely popular club Boca Juniors and is facing court charges. Fervent fans are counting on his return to play in the team's stadium, (54-1) 362-2050, in La Boca. Because general-admission tickets are in areas that can become rowdy, reserved seats, priced from \$40 to \$80, are suggested for tourists. Games are scheduled for Nov. 19 and 30 and Dec. 10 and 21.

Portenos, as the residents of Buenos Aires are known, usually dine late. And grilled beef, served at one of the city's many *parrilladas*, or steakhouses, is usually the dish of choice.

One of the city's most popular is Cabana Las Lilas, 516 Avenida A. Moreau de Justo, (54-1) 313-1336, in Puerto Madero, a recently restored waterfront area now home to trendy restaurants and lofts that has replaced the Recoleta as the major dining destination. Traditional cuts of meat like the *lomo*, or filet mignon, and assorted beef cuts known as an *asado* are grilled to perfection at this brick-walled gourmet *parrillada* with large windows overlooking the water. A dinner with an appetizer of grilled provolone and a mixed salad, plus wine is about \$90.

**CAFE LIFE** Much of Argentine life centers on cafes, where families and friends meet over a *coronado*, or espresso. The wooden circular bar at the Vivaldi Cafe, 1046 Talcahuano, (54-1) 813-2064, makes mixing with locals easy. *Empanadas*—pastry shells filled with meat, chicken or cheese and costing \$1 or \$2—are standard fare, as is *milanesa*, similar to a breaded veal cutlet, and served with french fries, for around \$5.



THE CAR COLUMN

# The New VW Golf: Still a Champ

By Gavin Green

**A** NEW Golf War is breaking out, this time in Europe. The target is the car that has been Europe's best-seller for more than 20 years. The players are most of the world's carmakers — including Mercedes-Benz, whose novel new A-class tries to outdrive VW's best-seller by extracting extraordinary space from a car that's extraordinarily small.

(On Tuesday, Mercedes said it was suspending for three months shipments of the A-class for re-engineering to stop the cars from tipping over during sharp turns.) But while rivals line up to try to topple the Golf, the champ hasn't exactly been resting on its laurels. Now there's a new Golf, although at first you might be excused for wondering just how new. It's yet another evolution — the fourth — of the original Golf style, which goes back more than 20 years. It's handsome, and is more about form than adornment — like all great designs. Despite the plaudits, it looks so familiar and reassuring that, on the road, few pick it as the successor to the nearest thing that Europe has to a family cult car.

## BETTER VALUE

The floor pan and much of the suspension are shared with the Audi A3 and the Skoda Octavia, although, as these are all VW-group cars, moral copyright for the platform belongs to the Golf. Engines are either improved carryovers or, as with the V5 test car, brand new. The latest car is longer, roomier, better made, better equipped, better looking and yet, in most markets, only marginally pricier — and therefore discernibly better value — than the old Golf.

That V5 engine is an oddity. Not that



many years ago, such an arrangement would have offered about as much equilibrium as a set of barbells with three weights on one side and two on the other. Yet, through the wonders of modern electronics and thanks to the V5's unusual engineering layout, it works superbly. It is smooth, pleasingly musical when pressed, and serves up excellent performance for so small a car. Whereas the old VR6 Golf, which the V5 partially replaces — the new VR6 is still six months or so from being introduced — often felt over-powered, like a Mini with a hot-rod engine rammed under the hood, the V5 is beautifully balanced. It mates superbly with the five-speed transmission. The upshot is silken drive-train refinement.

The handling and grip are good, even if there is still less intimate interaction between driver and steering wheel than on the very best French cars, such as the Peugeot 306. The ride is nicely supple, and the car feels strong and well made.

A few days spent in the cheaper 110 BHP turbodiesel version also proved that the V5 isn't the only quality engine option. That VW turbodiesel — also fitted to the Audi A4, the Passat and the Sharan — is probably the world's best diesel. It works superbly in the Golf, offering genuinely eager performance and a pleasingly gruff engine note with the added

bonus of superb economy.

The cabin is terrific. Family hatches still usually have a plastic, built-down-to-a-price feel. Owners are consistently reminded that the styling guys cared much more about the outside — which everyone else sees — than the inside, where the poor owner spends most of his or her time. Not on the Golf. This VW, like its big brother the Passat, enjoys plastics and fabrics of BMW-Mercedes A-class. There are numerous nice touches, such as flip-down front seat armrests — options on most Golf models, standard on others. The switches feel and move like quality ware, and there's plenty of back seat and trunk space. There's also an interior handle, to facilitate trunk lid closing, but it was clearly designed by a tall man. My wife, who is of average height, had difficulty reaching it.

**T**HERE'S little that's novel about the latest Golf. There are none of the newfangled features found on its latest rival, the Mercedes A-class; nothing that suggests that the conventional car, as a breed, is on the brink of great change, which it almost certainly is. Rather, the latest Golf is a beautifully honed and developed interpretation of a totally familiar concept.

It is proof that cars do not have to be innovative to be great — for, in its all-around execution, this is a truly fine car. • Volkswagen Golf V5. About \$29,000. V5 engine, 2,344cc, 150 BHP at 6,000 rpm. Five-speed manual transmission. Top speed: 120 kph (131 mph). Acceleration: 0-100 kph in 8.7 seconds. Average fuel economy: 9.2 liters/100 km.

Next car column: the Porsche 911

Gavin Green is the editor in chief of Car magazine.

## RECORDINGS

• **VANESSA-MAE** "Storm" (EMI): There are classical critics who say that this sort of combination of acoustic and techno elements, of the sonata form with sound bites, is the direction classical music is going to have to take to stay alive. We are reminded that even Bach displayed an interest in technology when he went around testing new organs. Born in Singapore, this Asian kitten looks sexy in the tight-fitting red dress she likes to wear while fiddling on stage and in videos. Unfortunately, you can't see it while listening to a record, although she eerily resembles Michael Jackson on some of the publicity photos in the package. Some of her music resembles Jean-Michel Jarre. Her music may be dumb but it's not vicious.

• **ERNST REIJSER** "Colla Parte" (Winter & Winter):



Ernst Reijseger

This, on the contrary, may be intellectual but it's not boring. The cellist Reijseger combines classical presentation and free improvisation as one concept. The sound may indeed be "classical," but the content is more inclusive. Reijseger, who won the Bird Award at the 1995 North Sea Jazz Festival, is part of the rich contemporary music scene in Amsterdam. He has collaborated with Yo-Yo Ma, Han Bennink, Misha Mengelberg and Louis Slacvis, among many others. He demonstrates that "freedom" does not necessarily include the freedom to shock, hurt or frighten it does include a wide swath of swing and beauty. All is one.

Mike Zwerin/IHT

## BOOKS

### ENDLESS FRONTIER: Vannevar Bush, Engineer of the American Century

By G. Pascal Zachary. 518 pages. \$32.50. Free Press.

Reviewed by Gregg Herken

**A**LL that has been written about the making of the atomic bomb tends to ignore the fact that the Manhattan Project was primarily an engineering effort. Historians have lavished most of their attention upon the more temperamental — and hence colorful — physicists involved. G. Pascal Zachary's "Endless Frontier," the first biography of an engineer who was once the doyen of America's scientific establishment, takes a major step toward setting the record straight.

Vannevar Bush was a prototypical Boston Yankee whose father was a Universalist preacher and grandfather a sea captain. Bush's flinty persona and wry humor reflected those origins. Educated at Tufts and MIT, Bush received a Ph.D. in electrical engineering in 1916 and set about to broaden his horizons.

An inveterate tinkerer, Bush invented before he was 40 a device to detect submarines, a code-breaking machine, a solar-powered pump, and the "differential analyzer" — an early, mechanical version of the computer. In the mid-1920s, he co-founded Raytheon and was made wealthy by the subsequent growth of the electronics giant. In 1939, on the eve of World War II, he became president of the Carnegie Institution in Washington.

Yet Bush's greatest invention was not a thing but an organization, the National Defense Research Committee, which he and President Franklin Roosevelt created in time to mobilize the country's scientific brainpower for the coming conflict. The quality that Bush typified and that he valued most — the ability

"to think straight in the midst of complexity" — was key to his and the NDRC's success in jump-starting the nascent atomic bomb project, which hidebound bureaucrats and flighty physicists had left dead in the water.

Bush also had the talent to recognize his own limitations. "Most of this was over my head," he readily admitted to physicist colleagues who were probing the mysteries of fission. Accordingly, Bush teamed up with another Bostonian — James Conant, a chemist and president of Harvard — whom he described as a "square-shooting, levelheaded liberal." The pairing of Bush and Conant created one of the most remarkable intellectual partnerships in the modern history of science and technology, but it receives disappointingly little treatment in this otherwise excellent book. Together, the duo not only oversaw development of the decisive weapons of victory — radar, the proximity fuse, and the bomb — but also became Roosevelt's de facto science advisers.

"Science — The Endless Frontier" was the 192-page plan for postwar federal support of scientific research that Bush prepared for Roosevelt as victory approached; he intended it as his legacy.

**B**USH wanted peacetime government-funded research to "supplement" rather than compete with work done by the military services. Predictably, however, the Pentagon viewed Bush's plan as a threat, and the cronies and pals who surrounded FDR's successor, Harry Truman, also feared that Bush's real goal was a technocracy, a government by experts.

Blocked at every turn, Bush could do little but complain and wax nostalgic about the halcyon days of the war. He

finally left the government in 1948.

Over time, Bush's hardheaded pragmatism became an ossified suspicion of the new. He was most famously wrong about ballistic missiles — "I think these things will be just too expensive and inaccurate to use, even if they could be built" — but his attachment to the analog technology of his differential analyzer likewise blinded him to the potential of digital computers.

In retirement, Bush was saved from becoming simply a curmudgeon by two courageous acts that received little or no public attention.

In 1952, while on a blue-ribbon panel studying disarmament, Bush tried to postpone the explosion of America's hydrogen bomb until the possibility of a ban on such tests could be explored by Truman's successor. Two years later, Bush spoke out in Robert Oppenheimer's defense at the latter's security hearing, where the physicist was being pilloried for his opposition to the H-bomb. While for naught, Bush's heroic stand at the Oppenheimer hearing was arguably his finest hour.

In an era when science as well as history is said to be only a reflection of changing cultural values, Zachary's book gives a glimpse into a simpler time.

Vannevar Bush was the exemplar of a generation that has now vanished. Bush evoked the attitudes and standards of that generation when he wrote, in December 1940, of standing "at the mouth of the cave with a few strong men of the clan armed with stones axes against a hostile world."

Gregg Herken, a historian at the Smithsonian, is writing a book about physicist Ernest Lawrence, Robert Oppenheimer and Edward Teller. He wrote this for The Washington Post.

## BRIDGE

By Alan Truscott

**E**DGAR Kaplan, who died in September, was an extraordinary man who did more for bridge in every way than anyone else in the game's history: player, teacher, writer, editor, system-maker, administrator, commentator and lawmaker.

Kaplan never won a world title, although he came close on two occasions. One of them was at the Olympiad in Deauville, France, in 1968, when the American team lost narrowly in the final to the Italian Blue Team. The diagrammed deal, played in the qualifying round, allowed him to demonstrate his superb card play.

This was before transfer bids became popular, so Ka-

plan became the declarer in four spades sitting South. West led the ace and jack of diamonds, and the declarer

NORTH		EAST	
♠ A K 4	♦ A 9 7 5	♠ Q 9	♦ 10 6
♥ Q 8 2	♣ A K 8	♥ K 5 4	♣ J 10 9 7 4 3
WEST (D)		SOUTH	
♠ 10 7 2	♥ 10 8 3	♠ 10 8 5 3	♥ Q 8 3
♦ A J 10 9 7 6	♣ 3	♦ Q 8 5 2	♣ 4
Neither side was vulnerable.		The bidding:	
West	North	East	South
Pass	2 N.T.	Pass	Pass
Pass	4 ♠	Pass	Pass

West led the diamond ace.

ruffed. He cashed the top trumps and could have made the contract, double-dummy, by finessing the heart eight and eventually playing the queen to pin the 10. Instead he ruffed the diamond queen to reach the position shown at right.

Drawing the missing trump would have been fatal. Instead he led a club to the king. If West ruffed he would be forced to lead from the heart king or give a ruff-and-sluff. So West discarded, and discarded again when South won with the king and played the ace. Then a club to the queen posed the same dilemma, and West discarded again. But now the last club was led, threatening to ruff in dummy, and South could not be prevented from making 10 tricks.

In the replay North was declarer and the opening club lead was ruffed. West underled the diamond ace and East was able to win the king and give his partner a second ruff. The defense scored a heart trick eventually for down one and 10 imps to Kaplan's team.

NORTH		EAST	
♠ A 9 7 5	♦ A K 6	♠ 10	♥ K 5 4
♥ Q 8 2	♣ J 10 9 7 4 3	♦ 10 8 6	♣ 4
WEST		SOUTH	
♠ 10	♥ K 5 4	♠ J	♥ Q 8 3
♦ 10 9 7	♣ 4	♦ Q 8 5 2	♣ 3

## MOVIE GUIDE

### BEAN

Directed by Mel Smith. U.K.-U.S.

His name is Bean, and he's already a legend in his own lifetime. A bulgy-eyed, laconic character in high-waisted trousers, goofy brogues and a shirt and tie, who walks from calamity to calamity, he's the highly popular star of a British television comedy series. His movie debut, "Bean," has shot up like a beanstalk worldwide. He also has a strong cult following in the United States, as avid viewers of his public-TV-aired shows will attest.

Whether this movie connects with a wider American audience remains to be seen. Bean, played by Rowan Atkinson (the jerny priest in "Four Weddings and a Funeral") is weirder than cute — a possible setback for anyone trying to attract American moviegoers. On the TV show, at least, he has a mean, self-serving streak. Obviously worried about this, scriptwriters Richard Curtis (who co-created Bean) and Robin Swicord have smoothed over Bean's less-than-savory qualities. But even through this PG-13 filter, any Bean is good Bean. When the man gets going, he's screaming funny. (Desson Howe, WP)

### ON CONNAIL LA CHANSON

Directed by Alain Resnais. France.

Marcel (Lambert Wilson), smooth as they come, has managed to sell a vast fishbowl of an apartment to Odile (Sabine Azema), without mentioning that the view of Paris will soon be obstructed by a high-rise. Everybody in Alain Resnais's new film, has something to hide, a lie as tall as the Eiffel Tower, secret sickness, guilty love, fear of loss. These delicate creatures, funny and familiar, are played by a formidable troupe that includes Pierre Arditi and Andre



Ewan McGregor in "A Life Less Ordinary."

Dussollier, along with Agnes Jaoui and Jean-Pierre Bacri, who wrote the script. In a bold move, Resnais has them all break out in song, using playback to express the inadmissible: it's the secret life of Walter Mitty erupting in polite society. The surprise is that the voice of Johnny Hallyday or the more melancholy Dalida should surge forth from actors who stay in touch with their characters — the snatch of song is just a moment's relief from worried lives. These middle-aged people seem to be themselves, perhaps because they are themselves: children, swimming in circles. Odile, who boasts that she never took an aspirin in her life, is played by the T by Azema, all berry eyes and shrill certainties. Her sleek head tilted in the direction of His Master's Voice. At the housewarming for the ghostly apartment, her friends make a mess of her fishbowl illusions. The Master has pulled off a tour de force, mixing old themes of memory and desire to come up with a new theme. Beyond the conventions of comedy, tragedy, or the musical as we know it. (Joan Dupont, IHT)

### A LIFE LESS ORDINARY

Directed by Danny Boyle. U.K.

have tried. McGregor is Robert, a janitor who just got fired. Diaz is Celine, the bored, listless daughter of the industrialist (Ian Holm) who cannot him. Upset over being replaced by a cleaning robot, Robert storms the boss's office, clutching one of those metallic creations. After he tries, unsuccessfully, to smash the robot through the window, Robert is pinned down by security guards. But Celine, who happens to be there, kicks one of the guards' dislodged guns toward the instigator. Before you can say "Stockholm syndrome," Robert is leading Celine out of the building at gunpoint, and we're into the dullist post-"Bonnie and Clyde" romance in movie history. Influenced by Michael Powell's heaven-and-earth romance, "A Matter of Life and Death" (whose British title was "Stairway to Heaven"), screenwriter Boyle throws in a subplot in which angel cops O'Reilly (Holly Hunter) and Jackson (Delroy Lindo) descend to Earth to make sure this budding romance takes root. To make matters even worse, director Boyle infuses this kidnapping plot with cloying cuteness. McGregor and Diaz are likable performers and, in different ways, they're sexy too. But not in this movie. And funny, they are not. (Desson Howe, WP)

still lifes and landscapes that combined abstract and figurative elements.

## ARTS GUIDE

### BRUSSELS

Palais des Beaux-Arts, tel: (2) 507-8486, closed Mondays. To Jan. 4: "Amnesie, Responsabilite et Collaboration: Willy Kessels, Photographie." Works by the Belgian artist (1878-1974). After Kessels' conviction for collaboration after World War II, his photographs and photomontages that had been acclaimed as representative of Belgian modernism of the 1930s and '40s were long censored.

### BRITAIN

Edinburgh National Gallery of Scotland, tel: (31) 332-2266, open daily. To Feb. 15: "Discovering the Italian Baroque: The Denis Mahon Collection." Brings together 17th- and 18th-century Italian paintings that are part of the art historian's collection. The core of the exhibition is a group of paintings by the Bolognese artists Guercino and Guido Reni.

### CANADA

Toronto Art Gallery of Ontario, tel: (416) 979-8648, closed Mondays and Tuesdays. To Jan. 4: "Plains Indian Drawings, 1865-1935: Pages from a Visual History." Late 19th- and early 20th-century Native American drawings made on ledger paper depict personal histories and momentous events, at the time when the Indians were succumbing to pressures from the United States military and European settlers.

### DENMARK

Humblybak Museum of Modern Art, tel: 49-19-07-19, open daily. To Jan. 11: "Alberto Savinio: Paintings 1927-1952." 30 of the Italian painter's works. Savinio (1891-1952), brother of De Chirico, created mythological compositions.

### GERMANY

Hamburg Deichtorhallen, tel: (40) 32-10-30, closed Mondays. To Feb. 1: "Francis Picabia: Das Spatwerk, 1933-1953." Late paintings and drawings by the French artist (1879-1953). During his last 20 years, Picabia alternated between figurative and abstract styles and was accused of betraying the avant-garde with his photorealist nudes. The exhibition will travel to Rotterdam.

### JAPAN

Nagoya City Art Museum, tel: (52) 212-0001, closed Mondays. To Dec. 14: "J.M.W. Turner: 1775-1851." Approximately 100 works by the British painter in oil and watercolor.

### FRANCE

Lyon Palais de la Bourse, tel: 04-78-33-46-59, closed Mondays. To Nov. 29: "Arts Japonais: Peintres et Calligraphes d'Aujourd'hui." An exhibition of contemporary Japanese calligraphy and painting, with works by 30 calligraphers and three painters: Hideki Noh, Kazuo Yamakawa and Kendo Hiratsuka.

### LUXEMBOURG

Parc Marmottan, tel: 01-42-24-07-02, closed Mondays. To Feb. 28: "Berthe Monrol." Impressionist works by Edouard Manet's sister-in-law, that were created in the 1870s and 1880s.

### SWITZERLAND

Geneva Petit Palais, tel: (22) 346-1433, open daily. To March 1: "German Expressionism: From Kirchner to Kandinsky." More than 100 paintings, gouaches, pastels, watercolors and sculptures bear witness to the artistic creativity of the Expressionists. Kirchner, Heckel, Schmidt-Rottluff, Marc, Pechstein and Kokoschka among others used strong colors and often distorted shapes to heighten the emotional impact of their works.

### ZURICH

Kunsthaus Zurich, tel: (1) 251-67-85, closed Mondays. To Feb. 15: "Femachi, Walter Bosshard: A Pioneer of Modern Photography." The Swiss photographer (1892-1975) is best remembered in 11 concerts.

for his portraits on Gandhi and Mao, on the war between Japan and China, and for his expeditions into Tibet, Turkestan and Inner Mongolia. He later covered World War II on the side of the Allies.

### UNITED STATES

New York American Museum of Natural History, tel: (212) 769-5500, open daily. To April 26: "The Nature of Diamonds." Explores all facets of the mineral, from its geological origins to its place in history, art, adornment and literature. Also on show are jewels from Lisbon and from the Kremlin in Moscow.

### WASHINGTON

National Museum of American Art, tel: (202) 633-8598, open daily. To March 29: "Ansel Adams: A Legacy." 115 photographs spanning the career of the American artist (1902-1984). The subjects range in subject matter from landscapes to portraits and almost abstract close-ups of nature.

### CLOSING SOON

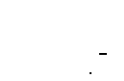
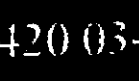
Nov. 16: "L'Art d'Imiter: Falsifications, Manipulations, Pastiches." Musée d'Art et d'Histoire, Geneva.  
Nov. 16: "Eve Arnold: In Retrospect" and "Women in White: Photographs by Lady Havard." Scottish National Portrait Gallery, Edinburgh.  
Nov. 16: "Rembrandt: The Blinding of Samson." The National Gallery, London.  
Nov. 16: "William Hogarth: The Artist and the City." The Whitworth Art Gallery, Manchester.  
Nov. 16: "Asterix: The Exhibition." Musée des Beaux-Arts, Montreal.

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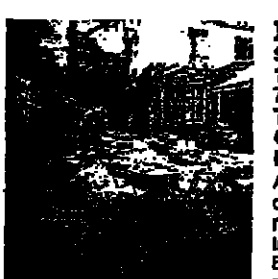
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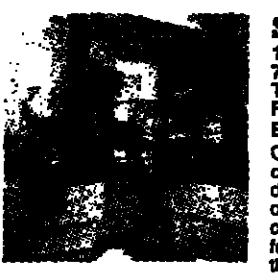


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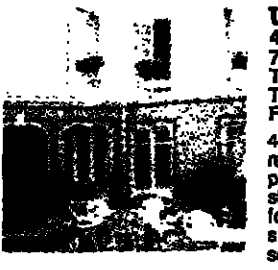
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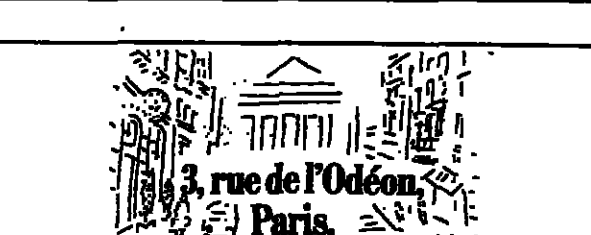
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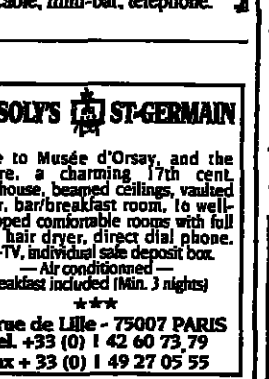
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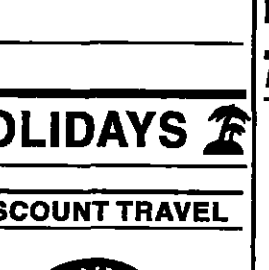
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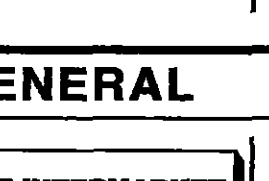
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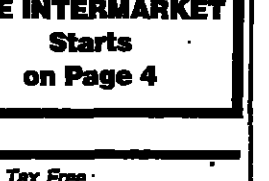
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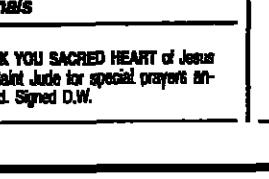
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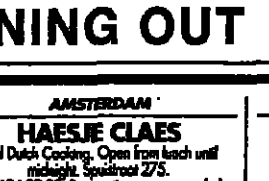
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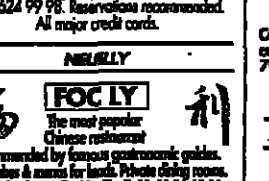
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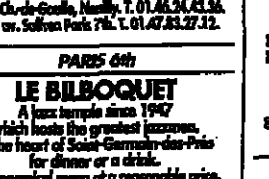
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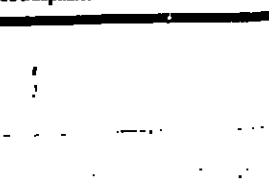
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## Mahathir as Reformer: Analysts Start to Listen

By Thomas Fuller  
International Herald Tribune

**KUALA LUMPUR** — When Prime Minister Mahathir bin Mohamad announced in September that Malaysia was stung by Asia's financial turmoil — would make currency trading illegal, many analysts wrote off the comments as emotional and quixotic.

Since those remarks, however, the prime minister has been gaining support in a campaign to study ways of regulating the world's currency markets.

In recent weeks, Mr. Mahathir has shed some of the rhetorical flourish that he brandished in calling currency speculation "unnecessary, unproductive and immoral." Now, some of the ideas behind the words are gaining a broader hearing as political leaders, financial officials and some economists suggest that something must be done to make economies and currencies less susceptible to surges in capital flows.

Joseph Stiglitz, senior vice president and chief economist for the World Bank in Washington, said, "In some instances development of policy instruments to allow greater control over surges of short-term capital flows may be important, a policy some have described as 'throwing sand in the wheels of international capital.'" he said.

And on Thursday in Kuala Lumpur, the managing director of the International Monetary Fund, Michel Camdessus, said he would preside next month over a meeting of Pacific Rim finance ministers that would focus on "what kind of new regulations should be or shouldn't be considered in order to introduce discipline in the markets."

That meeting, in Kuala Lumpur, will include the U.S. Treasury secretary, Robert Rubin, as well as the finance chiefs of Japan, China, the nine members of the Association of South East Asian Nations, and about 20 other Pacific Rim countries.

"There is certainly a sense that we are not dealing with perfect markets," said Amar Bhattacharya, an economic adviser at the World Bank. "There is growing consensus that there is a role for policy — and that's as much a domestic issue as it is international."

Direct support for Mr. Mahathir has come notably among his counterparts in the developing world. Last week, Mr.

Mahathir persuaded a grouping of 15 leaders from developing countries to jointly urge the World Bank and International Monetary Fund to study currency markets "with a view to appropriately regulating them, in order to make them more open and transparent."

The idea of discouraging speculative flows spurred James Tobin of Yale University, a Nobel laureate, to propose that a small tax be imposed on foreign exchange transactions. The tax would hurt investors who changed in and out of currencies frequently.

Although Mr. Mahathir will have several opportunities over the next few weeks to make his case, he readily concedes the difficulty of trying to change the world's currency trading system. "Whether I can convince people or not I don't know, because powerful countries are not so much affected by currency manipulation," he said.

Later this month, President Bill Clinton is scheduled to meet — on the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in Vancouver, British Columbia — with leaders from Southeast Asia to discuss the region's currency turmoil. Mr. Mahathir has made no secret of his intention to press his point at the summit meeting.

"What I would like APEC to do is to appreciate that the members of APEC are not at the same level of development," he said. "You cannot just say that these are market forces, full stop. You must also understand that when market forces work against the interest of millions of people, then you have to examine exactly what you mean by market forces."

Critics of Mr. Mahathir's ideas say they are no different from those of past leaders who have had to battle speculators and devalue their currencies.

"Nixon said the same thing about the speculators forcing the dollar devaluation that Mahathir has said in the last six months," said C. Fred Bergsten, a former top U.S. Treasury official, referring to former President Richard Nixon, who in 1971 removed the United States from the postwar fixed exchange-rate system. "Mahathir was almost quoting Nixon."

"There's a germ of truth in what he says," Mr. Bergsten added. "But while it's understandable, Mahathir is essentially scapegoating and blaming the messenger."



Customers of Bank Guna, one of 16 Indonesian banks being shut, waiting to claim partial reimbursements. Michel Camdessus, the IMF's managing director, urged regional cooperation to avert financial crises.

## Tokyo Defers to IMF On Regional Loans

Plans for Asian Rescue Fund Are Modified

By Michael Richardson  
International Herald Tribune

**SINGAPORE** — As Asia's financial crisis spreads, Japan has modified its controversial plan for a lending program to aid troubled Asian economies so that it will not clash with the IMF, officials said Thursday.

Meanwhile, support in the region is increasing for new arrangements to marshal additional money to buttress emergency loans from the International Monetary Fund in case of another major crisis. Support is also increasing, officials said, for moves to monitor the policies of Asia-Pacific economies so that they do not go awry again.

Finance Ministry officials in Tokyo said that Japan had modified its proposal for an "Asian Monetary Fund" following concerns voiced by the United States, the IMF and some others. They feared that the fund — which, as Tokyo proposed in September, could draw on standby credits from regional members of up to \$100 billion — would weaken the IMF's power to demand economic reforms in Asia in exchange for loans.

While important details of the new arrangements still have to be agreed by Asian and Pacific countries at meetings later this month and in December, government officials in the region and in the IMF said that the rapid spread of instability in financial markets in Asia and other parts of the world since September had prompted greater consensus.

"There is now a very common sense that whatever financial initiative is taken, it should not, directly or indirectly, weaken the IMF and its capacity to negotiate with countries the programs for recovery which this financial scheme would support," Michel Camdessus, the IMF's managing director, said Thursday. "I believe this point is now well taken by all and that whatever formula is adopted, it will respect this essential principle without which the scheme will not fly."

Three Southeast Asian countries — Thailand, the Philippines and Indonesia — have received a total of about \$60 billion in backup loans arranged by the IMF in exchange for economic reforms since the Thai financial crisis in July triggered turmoil in the region.

Mr. Camdessus, in Singapore as part of a Southeast Asian tour, said that the spillover effect had "proven to be so costly that each country has an obligation to work with its neighbors to see how a framework for regional cooperation could help them in managing their economies better to avoid a crisis, or if a crisis emerges to react together."

The IMF has also proposed a "regional surveillance group," comprising finance ministers and their aides, should meet regularly to preempt problems.

The IMF has also proposed "a cooperative financing initiative" for Asia under which Asian members would agree to provide lines of credit that could be drawn on in a major crisis to supplement IMF funding.

This is similar to Tokyo's modified fund proposal, which would also supplement IMF activities and be subject to the same tough IMF conditions, effectively giving the IMF access to new credit lines, Japanese officials said.

Mr. Camdessus said that financing the loans-for-reforms packages to stabilize Asian currencies and lay the basis for economic recovery was not a problem.

"What is missing here is a kind of regional surveillance, to complement an already strengthened IMF surveillance, by developing among the countries of the region a club spirit through which neighbors can encourage one another, and exert some peer pressure on one another, to pursue sound policies," he said.

He added that such a group should seek to harmonize exchange rate movements and coordinate fiscal policies. "If this regional surveillance can take place in an Asian framework, certainly many potential crises could be avoided."

Deputy finance ministers from Australia, Brunei, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, China, Singapore, Thailand and the United States have been invited to Manila next week to discuss economic stabilization proposals. Finance Secretary Roberto de Ocampo of the Philippines said that the conclusions of the Manila talks would be submitted to the annual summit meeting of leaders of the 18 members of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum, in Vancouver, British Columbia, on Nov. 24 and 25.

## Thinking Ahead / Commentary

### Free Trade's Enemies Polish Their Act

By Reginald Dale  
International Herald Tribune

**WASHINGTON** — The clouds of smoke drifting from the latest battle over U.S. trade policy, in which President Bill Clinton was forced into a humiliating retreat last weekend, are obscuring a worrying new development: The opponents of free trade have acquired better arguments.

Mr. Clinton made so many mistakes before finally withdrawing his request for new "fast-track" trade negotiating authority that it was easy to attribute his reversal to his own bad generalship, rather than to the improved tactics of his enemies.

It is true that Mr. Clinton contributed heavily to his own defeat. He waited too long to make his request to Congress and he relied too much on the same kind of frantic, last-minute deal-making he employed in his first term to win cliff-hanging votes on the North American Free Trade Agreement and the Uruguay Round of world trade negotiations.

But this time something was different.

In seeking the right to negotiate new trade pacts with a good prospect of quick congressional approval, Mr. Clinton offered arguments that were economically impeccable. But they sounded trite and tired. Those of his opponents sounded fresh and, at least superficially, more attractive. It was a

major turning of the tables. According to Mr. Clinton's centrist political strategy, he is meant to be the New Democrat, busily building a bridge to the 21st century on the twin foundations of U.S. competitiveness and leadership of an open global trading system.

His opponents — and especially Representative Richard Gephardt, the House minority leader, who led the campaign against fast-track on Capitol Hill — are meant to represent the old, protectionist Democratic party, out of touch with today's public opinion.

Neoprotectionists suggest that Americans can indeed have it both ways.

The point the free traders seem to have missed is that Mr. Gephardt and at least his more sophisticated friends are no longer singing the same siren song.

The new line goes something like this: "Yes, we know there is now a global economy and that it is here to stay. We are not against globalization and expanding trade. Nor are we against American leadership of the world trading system."

"On the contrary, we want America to lead the world in the next century in shaping new trade rules that will safeguard the interests of workers and the environment, not just those of multinational corporations."

That sounds much better than the old protectionist rhetoric, even if the objective is much the same — to make foreign goods more expensive. It is also in tune with the views of a general public that remains deeply ambivalent about trade.

Americans tell pollsters that they favor free trade but also that American jobs should be protected. The neoprotectionist approach suggests that Americans can indeed have it both ways, adding a dash of the "feel-your-pain" compassion in which Mr. Clinton used to specialize.

A lot is wrong with this argument. It is dishonest in suggesting that other countries can be persuaded to accept American rules on labor and the environment as well as more American exports — they can't — and that denying the president fast-track authority will somehow advance the cause.

The seemingly compassionate approach is laced with a nasty dose of class warfare. One union leader hailed Mr. Clinton's defeat as "a major victory for working families over corporate greed," forgetting that workers are also consumers and just as interested as corporations in a strong economy.

But free traders must respond more effectively or support for protectionism will grow as the U.S. trade deficit climbs and, some day, growth inevitably falters and unemployment rises.

The challenge is to make free trade appeal to the heart as well as the head. It won't be easy.

## Rubin Warns Tokyo About Bank System

By David E. Sanger  
New York Times Service

**WASHINGTON** — In another sign of U.S. concern about an escalation of the financial crisis in Asia, Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin wrote to his Japanese counterpart late last week warning that the health of Japan's banking system was deeply imperiled and urging strong action to spur the Japanese economy.

Details of the letter to Hiroshi Mitsumizu, the Japanese finance minister, have leaked out in both Japan and the United States in recent days, though the Treasury Department, citing the traditional confidentiality of correspondence between finance ministers, has declined to release the text.

Reports about the letter's content appear to reflect the Clinton administration's fears that the choking off of Japan's long-delayed economic recovery, worsened by a sharp fall in the Japanese stock market, could set off a crisis like the one that moved from New York and Latin America in the last month.

In Tokyo, the Nikkei stock average fell more than 2.5 percent Wednesday to a two-and-a-half-year low, and on Thursday it failed to recover any of those losses.

Mr. Rubin's letter, as described by people who have seen it, apparently did not directly refer to the weakening yen, which finished Thursday at 126.30 to the dollar, a six-month low. But Mr. Rubin repeated his warning that Japanese officials should not be tempted to export their way out of their troubles —

a move that would greatly increase the U.S. trade deficit. A weaker yen makes Japanese goods more affordable overseas.

While Mr. Rubin's letter was directed at Japan, it is increasingly clear that the administration's immediate worry centers on what Japan might do in response to a financial collapse of South Korea.

The South Korean currency has plummeted in recent weeks, corporate bankruptcies are spreading and its banks are teetering under the weight of bad loans that many experts think vastly exceed the banks' corporate equity.

### Japan's Exports Lift Trade Surplus 76%

Reuters

**TOKYO** — Japan's trade surplus soared in the first half of its fiscal year, a government report showed Thursday, and analysts said surging exports would provide support for the flagging economy despite fears of turmoil spreading from other Asian economies.

The current-account surplus, the broadest measure of trade in goods and services, jumped 76 percent in the April-September period from a year earlier, to 5.806 trillion yen (\$46.5 billion), the Ministry of Finance said.

Although some analysts said the increase in Japan's exports would slow because of the recent problems in other Asian economies, many others said that a weak yen would buoy exports to other parts of the world.

In recent days, officials in Washington and Tokyo have made little secret of their concern that a free fall in the South Korean currency could put pressure on Japan to let the yen fall as well. South Korea is one of Japan's fiercest regional competitors, and U.S. officials worry that Japanese industry may urge the government to make sure that Seoul's devaluation does not undermine Japanese businesses by making Japanese exports less competitive than South Korean ones.

The immediate result, U.S. officials think, could be a huge rise in the U.S. trade deficit with Asia next year. One leading trade economist, David Hale of Zurich Insurance Group, has estimated that the U.S. trade deficit with the world could expand to \$250 billion to \$300 billion by early 1999, up from \$192 billion last year.

But the trade imbalance could rank among the least of the problems.

Japanese banks, securities houses and insurance firms have struggled for several years because of the implosion of the Japanese real estate market and the fall of the stock market. They are particularly vulnerable now because they are also exposed to enormous losses in Southeast Asia. A collapse in South Korea could lead to a new round of trouble across the Sea of Japan.

Tokyo and Washington could also come under pressure to engineer a South Korean aid package, though the Finance Ministry in Seoul, in a long, defensive statement Wednesday, insisted that it would need no outside help. Economists in the United States and Europe are unconvinced.

## CURRENCY & INTEREST RATES

Cross Rates									
	£	DM	FF	¥	₹	₹	₹	₹	₹
American	1.38	1.75	1.93	110.5	110.5	110.5	110.5	110.5	110.5
British	1.38	1.75	1.93	110.5	110.5	110.5	110.5	110.5	110.5
French	1.75	1.75	1.93	110.5	110.5	110.5	110.5	110.5	110.5
German	1.75	1.75	1.93	110.5	110.5	110.5	110.5	110.5	110.5
Japanese	110.5	110.5	110.5	110.5	110.5	110.5	110.5	110.5	110.5
Italian	1.93	1.93	1.93	110.5	110.5	110.5	110.5	110.5	110.5
Spanish	166.6	166.6	166.6	110.5	110.5	110.5	110.5	110.5	110.5
Swiss	1.48	1.48	1.48	110.5	110.5	110.5	110.5	110.5	110.5
Thai	54.8	54.8	54.8	110.5	110.5	110.5	110.5	110.5	110.5
U.S.	1.38	1.75	1.93	110.5	110.5	110.5	110.5	110.5	110.5
Other Dollar Values									
Australian	1.38	1.75	1.93	110.5	110.5	110.5	110.5	110.5	110.5
Canadian	1.38	1.75	1.93	110.5	110.5	110.5	110.5	110.5	110.5
Chinese	8.27	8.27	8.27	110.5	110.5	110.5	110.5	110.5	110.5
Indian	47.8	47.8	47.8	110.5	110.5	110.5	110.5	110.5	110.5
Japanese	110.5	110.5	110.5	110.5	110.5	110.5	110.5	110.5	110.5
South African	13.8	13.8	13.8	110.5	110.5	110.5	110.5	110.5	110.5
Swedish	8.48	8.48	8.48	110.5	110.5	110.5	110.5	110.5	110.5
Swiss	1.48	1.48	1.48	110.5	110.5	110.5	110.5	110.5	110.5
U.S.	1.38	1.75	1.93	110.5	110.5	110.5	110.5	110.5	110.5
Forward Rates									
American	1.38	1.75	1.93	110.5	110.5	110.5	110.5	110.5	110.5
British	1.38	1.75	1.93	110.5	110.5	110.5	110.5	110.5	110.5
French	1.75	1.75	1.93	110.5	110.5	110.5	110.5	110.5	110.5
German	1.75	1.75	1.93	110.5	110.5	110.5	110.5	110.5	110.5
Japanese	110.5	110.5	110.5	110.5	110.5	110.5	110.5	110.5	110.5
Italian	1.93	1.93	1.93	110.5	110.5	110.5	110.5	110.5	110.5
Spanish	166.6	166.6	166.6	110.5	110.5	110.5	110.5	110.5	110.5
Swiss	1.48	1.48	1.48	110.5	110.5	110.5	110.5	110.5	110.5
Thai	54.8	54.8	54.8	110.5	110.5	110.5	110.5	110.5	110.5
U.S.	1.38	1.75	1.93	110.5	110.5	110.5	110.5	110.5	110.5

## EU Leaders Play Down Jobs Summit

Dismissal of 'Vast and Costly' Programs Could Bring a Clash With Paris

By Barry James  
International Herald Tribune

**BRUSSELS** — European Union leaders, including Chancellor Helmut Kohl of Germany, played down hopes Thursday of dramatic developments next week at the "jobs summit" meeting of heads of government and state in Luxembourg.

Even Jacques Santer, the president of the European Commission, the EU's executive, said he had "nothing good to say" about "vast and costly" programs to create jobs artificially.

Mr. Kohl said in Parliament on Thursday that Bonn, the EU's biggest paymaster, would not foot the bill for job-creation programs. Employment policy, he said, is "mainly a national and not a European task."

This set the tone for a probable clash of ideas with the French government, which insisted on the meeting as its price for agreeing to a stringent stability pact designed to keep countries on the path of monetary and financial virtue in the proposed European single currency zone.

This is just one more clash among several — including the dispute about the future leadership of the European central bank — as Europe heads into the home stretch toward monetary union.

France, whose 12.6 percent unemployment rate is a postwar record, is looking for a positive measure of hope from the Luxembourg meeting.

But with no new spending available beyond 1 billion European currency units (\$1.16 billion) in European Investment Bank profit, quick fixes are unlikely. Even a modest commission proposal for jobs or training spots for the long-term unemployed has raised cost concerns in Bonn and some other capitals.

Mr. Santer warned against unrealistically raised expectations from the Luxembourg meeting. "We are not expecting from this summit that there will be so many millions of jobs created," he said.

When Prime Minister Tony Blair of Britain spoke at a French-British summit meeting last week about helping people enhance their "employability," President Jacques Chirac of France replied,

"We don't know what that means." But the word is also used by Padraig Flynn of Ireland, the European commissioner responsible for employment and social policies.

Mr. Flynn said at an interview here that the emphasis at Luxembourg would be on creating jobs, now and for the long term, to keep Europe competitive rather than specifically dealing with the EU's 10.6 percent employment rate.

"We have vacancies at the moment because people aren't available to fill them," he said. "Forty percent of small businesses have told us straight that they can't expand because of the shortage of the skilled people they need."

Mr. Flynn said it was more important to focus on the employment rate, which on average in Europe is 60.4 percent of the population between 16 and 65, some 10 percentage points lower than in the United States or Japan.

He said commission studies had shown that by combining the best meth-







EUROPE

# Siemens Plans to Buy Westinghouse Units

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

MUNICH — Siemens AG is ready to pay about \$1.5 billion in cash and assume some debt to buy the conventional power-generation units of Westinghouse Electric Corp., a person close to the talks said Thursday.

The deal would increase the electronics and engineering company's share of the market for power-generation equipment in the United States and Asia.

Westinghouse, an American company based in Pittsburgh, is selling its industrial subsidiaries to focus on its media businesses. Westinghouse's power-generation operations consist of nuclear and conventional power-generation units.

The sale to Siemens is not expected to include the nuclear unit, the source said.

The companies refused to comment on any pending accord.

The nonnuclear energy business makes turbines, reactors and control systems for power companies. It accounted for about one-third of Westinghouse's nonbroadcasting revenue of \$4.2 billion last year. Based in Orlando, Florida, the unit employs about 7,000 people and has a 17 percent global market share.

"This would make Siemens the only company with a strong position in the turbine-power business in Europe and the U.S.," said Kevin Brau of Credit Suisse First Boston. "Each of the other players has only a small presence outside their home markets."

The Westinghouse units would be only the latest of several acquisitions at Siemens this year, including its planned 2 billion Swiss franc (\$1.43 billion) purchase of Elektrowatt AG's building controls and security business. Though the acquisition fits Siemens' plans to shore up its basic businesses, including power generation, it slows its progress in slim-

ming its portfolio, analysts said. "It's typical," Mr. Brau said. "Siemens will sell something off and then buy something twice as big the next day."

Westinghouse had planned to separate its industrial business from its media operations by the end of the year in a tax-free spin-off to shareholders.

The company has said it will sell Thermo King, its lucrative transport refrigeration business, to Ingersoll-Rand Co. for \$2.56 billion and use the proceeds to operate the industrial business. Now it plans to put its gains from the sale into its CBS Corp. broadcasting arm.

Last month, Westinghouse announced it would cut 2,000 industrial jobs, including about 1,300 at the power-generation unit.

Besides CBS, Westinghouse's media operations include the largest holdings of U.S. radio stations.

(Bloomberg AP)

## Virgin Express Begins Trading

Bloomberg News

BRUSSELS — Virgin Group Ltd. sold \$96.3 million of shares on the Nasdaq stock market in the United States and the Brussels stock exchange in an initial public offering Thursday for its Virgin Express Holdings PLC subsidiary.

The company sold 6.4 million American depositary receipts of Virgin Express, a low-cost airline based in Brussels that operates short-haul flights in Europe.

The ADRs, each representing one-third of an ordinary share, sold for \$15 each, at the top of the expected price range, said Merrill Lynch & Co., which managed the offering. The ordinary shares were priced at 1,602 Belgian francs (\$45.53) in Brussels. The sale gives Virgin Express a market value of about \$216 million.

In afternoon trading in New York, Virgin Express's ADRs were up 87.5 cents at \$15.875.

## France Said to Weigh Sale of Renault Stake

Bloomberg News

PARIS — France is considering selling part or all of its 46 percent stake in the automaker Renault, ABN-AMRO France said Thursday, as it prepares to dispose of more state assets ahead of the adoption of the single European currency.

The government has chosen ABN-AMRO Rothschild and Credit Agricole Indosuez SA to advise it on the sale, a spokeswoman for ABN-AMRO France, Anne Lavat, said. The 46 percent stake would be worth 16.4 billion francs (\$2.8 billion) at current market prices.

A Finance Ministry spokesman said the government had not made "any particular progress" on a decision to sell more Renault shares.

A spokesman for Renault said it was up to the state to decide whether and when to sell its stake in the group and added that it had not been informed about any such plans.

Credit Agricole Indosuez declined to comment.

France sold 25 percent of Renault in November 1994 and a further stake in June 1996. The Socialist-led government has become bolder about selling state assets since raising 42 billion francs in last month's sale of France Telecom SA shares, as it needs to raise funds to help it meet the economic and fiscal criteria for the European single currency next year.

"It's completely logical and expected," said Marc Renaud, a fund manager at CCR Actions. "The state is not meant to be in the business of making cars."

Renault shares fell 3.90 francs to close at 146.50 Mr. Renaud said he expected the news of a possible sale to continue weighing down the shares.

ABN-AMRO France declined to speculate on the timing of any sale of Renault shares. The French newspaper La Tribune reported Thursday that the government was preparing to sell more of its stake in the second quarter of 1998, depending on the share price.

### Cross-Border Bids Defended

The chief executive of France's largest financial institution called for the country to be open to foreign investment amid an outcry over an Italian company's takeover bid for France's third-largest insurer, Bloomberg News reported.

But Philippe Lagayette, chief executive of Caisse des Depots & Consignations, also said the state would retain control of a large part of France's financial industry.

Assicurazioni Generali SpA, Italy's largest insurer, opened a \$9.5 billion hostile bid Oct. 13 for Assicurazioni Generali di Francia SA.

Mr. Lagayette, who is often seen as close to the Socialist Party, said consolidation in the financial industry was inevitable. "The players' size must grow because of the single European market," he said.

## Profit Up, Euro Disney Raises Ticket Prices

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

PARIS — Euro Disney SCA on Thursday announced a 7.5 percent rise in annual profit and said it was raising entry prices to its Disneyland Paris theme park.

Gilles Pelisson, the company's chairman, said net income for the year ended Sept. 30 rose to 217 million francs (\$37.8 million) from 202 million francs in the year-earlier period. The number of visitors rose to 12.6 million from 11.7 million. Revenue at Disneyland Paris advanced 10.2 percent, to 5.48 billion francs from 4.97 billion.

"The year of the fifth anniversary has been a big success," Mr. Pelisson

said. "We faced a major challenge in fiscal year 1997: to deliver a positive net income, despite a significant increase in financial charges."

Shares in the company rose 10 centimes to 7.50 francs.

Euro Disney, which is 39.2 percent owned by The Walt Disney Co., faces an uphill battle to maintain profits as a 1994 moratorium on interest and principal payments of its debt and leasing agreements draws to an end. If the company had paid these costs in full in 1997, its profit would have been wiped away, analysts said.

"These results are a demonstration that this company has got to run,

and run hard, just to stand still," said Nigel Reed, analyst at Paribas Capital Markets. "Revenue was up 10.2 percent, which is good news by any measure, but if you strip out the interest holiday of about 250 million francs and the exceptional gain of 52 million francs, this company made a loss of 85 million francs."

For the 1997-1998 financial year, the company will raise low-season entry prices for children to 130 francs from 125 francs and to 160 francs from 150 francs for adults. Peak-season prices for children will rise to 155 francs from 150 francs and to 200 francs from 195 francs for adults.

(Reuters, Bloomberg)

## WORLD STOCK MARKETS

Prices, Nov. 13

Thursdays in local currencies

High Low Close Prev.

Amsterdam AEX index: 844.4

Prev.: 841.2

ABN-AMRO 37.40 36.50 37.20 36.40

Adair 18.00 17.50 17.80 17.60

Alcoa 45.30 44.50 45.10 44.80

Alkermes 12.50 12.20 12.40 12.30

Amgen 30.10 29.50 30.00 29.80

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**Thursday's 4 P.M.**  
The 1,000 most traded National Market securities  
in terms of dollar value, updated twice a year.  
*The Associated Press*

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Order No.	Order Date	Order Qty	Order Price	Order Total	Order Status	Order Remarks
1	2023-10-27	1	100.00	100.00	Completed	Order for 1 unit of Item 100.00.
2	2023-10-27	1	200.00	200.00	Completed	Order for 1 unit of Item 200.00.
3	2023-10-27	1	300.00	300.00	Completed	Order for 1 unit of Item 300.00.
4	2023-10-27	1	400.00	400.00	Completed	Order for 1 unit of Item 400.00.
5	2023-10-27	1	500.00	500.00	Completed	Order for 1 unit of Item 500.00.
6	2023-10-27	1	600.00	600.00	Completed	Order for 1 unit of Item 600.00.
7	2023-10-27	1	700.00	700.00	Completed	Order for 1 unit of Item 700.00.
8	2023-10-27	1	800.00	800.00	Completed	Order for 1 unit of Item 800.00.
9	2023-10-27	1	900.00	900.00	Completed	Order for 1 unit of Item 900.00.
10	2023-10-27	1	1000.00	1000.00	Completed	Order for 1 unit of Item 1000.00.
11	2023-10-27	1	1100.00	1100.00	Completed	Order for 1 unit of Item 1100.00.
12	2023-10-27	1	1200.00	1200.00	Completed	Order for 1 unit of Item 1200.00.
13	2023-10-27	1	1300.00	1300.00	Completed	Order for 1 unit of Item 1300.00.
14	2023-10-27	1	1400.00	1400.00	Completed	Order for 1 unit of Item 1400.00.
15	2023-10-27	1	1500.00	1500.00	Completed	Order for 1 unit of Item 1500.00.
16	2023-10-27	1	1600.00	1600.00	Completed	Order for 1 unit of Item 1600.00.
17	2023-10-27	1	1700.00	1700.00	Completed	Order for 1 unit of Item 1700.00.
18	2023-10-27	1	1800.00	1800.00	Completed	Order for 1 unit of Item 1800.00.
19	2023-10-27	1	1900.00	1900.00	Completed	Order for 1 unit of Item 1900.00.
20	2023-10-27	1	2000.00	2000.00	Completed	Order for 1 unit of Item 2000.00.
21	2023-10-27	1	2100.00	2100.00	Completed	Order for 1 unit of Item 2100.00.
22	2023-10-27	1	2200.00	2200.00	Completed	Order for 1 unit of Item 2200.00.
23	2023-10-27	1	2300.00	2300.00	Completed	Order for 1 unit of Item 2300.00.
24	2023-10-27	1	2400.00	2400.00	Completed	Order for 1 unit of Item 2400.00.
25	2023-10-27	1	2500.00	2500.00	Completed	Order for 1 unit of Item 2500.00.
26	2023-10-27	1	2600.00	2600.00	Completed	Order for 1 unit of Item 2600.00.
27	2023-10-27	1	2700.00	2700.00	Completed	Order for 1 unit of Item 2700.00.
28	2023-10-27	1	2800.00	2800.00	Completed	Order for 1 unit of Item 2800.00.
29	2023-10-27	1	2900.00	2900.00	Completed	Order for 1 unit of Item 2900.00.
30	2023-10-27	1	3000.00	3000.00	Completed	Order for 1 unit of Item 3000.00.
31	2023-10-27	1	3100.00	3100.00	Completed	Order for 1 unit of Item 3100.00.
32	2023-10-27	1	3200.00	3200.00	Completed	Order for 1 unit of Item 3200.00.
33	2023-10-27	1	3300.00	3300.00	Completed	Order for 1 unit of Item 3300.00.
34	2023-10-27	1	3400.00	3400.00	Completed	Order for 1 unit of Item 3400.00.
35	2023-10-27	1	3500.00	3500.00	Completed	Order for 1 unit of Item 3500.00.
36	2023-10-27	1	3600.00	3600.00	Completed	Order for 1 unit of Item 3600.00.
37	2023-10-27	1	3700.00	3700.00	Completed	Order for 1 unit of Item 3700.00.
38	2023-10-27	1	3800.00	3800.00	Completed	Order for 1 unit of Item 3800.00.
39	2023-10-27	1	3900.00	3900.00	Completed	Order for 1 unit of Item 3900.00.
40	2023-10-27	1	4000.00	4000.00	Completed	Order for 1 unit of Item 4000.00.
41	2023-10-27	1	4100.00	4100.00	Completed	Order for 1 unit of Item 4100.00.
42	2023-10-27	1	4200.00	4200.00	Completed	Order for 1 unit of Item 4200.00.
43	2023-10-27	1	4300.00	4300.00	Completed	Order for 1 unit of Item 4300.00.
44	2023-10-27	1	4400.00	4400.00	Completed	Order for 1 unit of Item 4400.00.

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**Thursday's 4 P.M. Close**  
(Continued)

[illegible]

12 Month	High	Low	Stock	Div Yld	PE	Ratio	High	Low	Latest	Change
1954-55	1.00	0.75	100	1.00	10.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00
1955-56	1.00	0.75	100	1.00	10.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00
1956-57	1.00	0.75	100	1.00	10.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00
1957-58	1.00	0.75	100	1.00	10.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00
1958-59	1.00	0.75	100	1.00	10.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00
1959-60	1.00	0.75	100	1.00	10.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00
1960-61	1.00	0.75	100	1.00	10.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00
1961-62	1.00	0.75	100	1.00	10.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00
1962-63	1.00	0.75	100	1.00	10.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00
1963-64	1.00	0.75	100	1.00	10.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00
1964-65	1.00	0.75	100	1.00	10.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00
1965-66	1.00	0.75	100	1.00	10.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00
1966-67	1.00	0.75	100	1.00	10.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00
1967-68	1.00	0.75	100	1.00	10.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00
1968-69	1.00	0.75	100	1.00	10.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00
1969-70	1.00	0.75	100	1.00	10.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00
1970-71	1.00	0.75	100	1.00	10.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00
1971-72	1.00	0.75	100	1.00	10.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00
1972-73	1.00	0.75	100	1.00	10.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00
1973-74	1.00	0.75	100	1.00	10.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00
1974-75	1.00	0.75	100	1.00	10.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00
1975-76	1.00	0.75	100	1.00	10.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00
1976-77	1.00	0.75	100	1.00	10.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00
1977-78	1.00	0.75	100	1.00	10.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00
1978-79	1.00	0.75	100	1.00	10.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00
1979-80	1.00	0.75	100	1.00	10.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00
1980-81	1.00	0.75	100	1.00	10.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00
1981-82	1.00	0.75	100	1.00	10.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00
1982-83	1.00	0.75	100	1.00	10.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00
1983-84	1.00	0.75	100	1.00	10.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00
1984-85	1.00	0.75	100	1.00	10.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00
1985-86	1.00	0.75	100	1.00	10.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00
1986-87	1.00	0.75	100	1.00	10.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00
1987-88	1.00	0.75	100	1.00	10.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00

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ASIA/PACIFIC

# Despite Its Basic Strength, Hong Kong's Mood Turns Sour

By Edward A. Gargan  
New York Times Service

HONG KONG — In Richard Chen's jewelry store, the only glitter is amid the pearl necklaces, the diamond pendants and the gold rings — the mood in the shop is dour and darkening.

"I'm very pessimistic," said Mr. Chen, whose usually cheery disposition is clouded by deep uncertainties about Hong Kong's economy. "A lot of us feel this way."

In the past two weeks, Hong Kong has been battered, its stock market plummeting, then surfacing for air, then sinking again.

Speculators have jostled with the Hong Kong dollar. Interest rates are soaring. Tourists are scarcer than doubloons. And one of the territory's banks has endured a mini-run.

Now people wonder what has happened to Hong Kong, a place where the only direction people knew was up, from the stock market to apartment prices, from new restaurants to a new future under Chinese rule. Just when everything seemed to be going right, everything seems to be souring.

"People are depressed and nervous," said Blanche Cheung, who works in a travel agency in Wanchai, a district of crooked lanes, pocket-sized apartments and barbecue-duck

restaurants with linoleum tables. "If they had money in the stock market, now they feel poor."

From the heights of August, the Hong Kong stock market has seen 40 percent of its value vanish in an orgy of panic selling, rumors and worries about the territory's future.

It doesn't matter that the territory's chief executive, Tung Chee-hwa, its business tycoons and just about every economist in town have been beating the drum for Hong Kong's basically sound economy; no amount of cheerleading seems to help.

In the past several days, rumors emerged about the viability of one of Hong Kong's smaller banks, International Bank of Asia. Even though the bank, which is owned by Arab Banking Corp. and a mainland Chinese company, was on firm financial footing, thousands of customers lined up outside the bank's 28 branches Tuesday and, when it was all over, \$200 million had been withdrawn.

Although the causes of Hong Kong's market distress are well known — regional currency and economic crises and the costs of failed efforts by speculators to sever the Hong Kong dollar's link to the American dollar — residents of Hong Kong have reacted in stampede fashion to any hint of news or rumor. The bank run was just one example.

"I think the situation is understandable," said John Leung Jin-pang, a professor of psychology and president of the Hong Kong Psychology Association. After Hong Kong's transition from British to Chinese rule on July 1, he said, "I think people saw that things were operating as they used to be. People's minds were settled. The stock market was doing quite well."

"But then there was a monetary crisis in Southeast Asia. Once that happened, people's confidence was shaken in terms of whether Hong Kong could stand up to this kind of crisis since the Chinese government took over."

"I must say that people's confidence has been shaken because of these events, and especially when you talk about rumors, the safest thing is to try and get your money and decide what to do later. Hong Kong is such a small place. Everything travels very fast."

Analysts are at a loss to explain why Hong Kong residents have been fleeing the stock market or sprinting to withdraw money. As security officers struggled to push anxious customers away from International Bank of Asia's main branch, Shannon Garrett, a senior analyst at Socgen-Crosby Securities, emerged from the bank shaking her head. "The bank is fine," she said. "There just aren't any problems here."

Later, she reflected on the skittishness around town. "Consumers are worried about the value of property," she said. "But the banks in Hong Kong are very well capitalized, very well supervised, very liquid. Banks in Hong Kong are perhaps the best-capitalized banks in the world."

Still, business seems to be sagging everywhere. Mr. Chen, the jeweler, said sales at his shop in the upscale Mandarin Hotel were off by 50 percent.

"Before, we always knew that if people from Taiwan didn't come, people from the Japanese didn't come, the Japanese would; and if the Japanese didn't, the Indonesians would. But now, we have no spenders here. And 60 percent of our business is locals, and the locals aren't spending either."

Paul Chang, who owns textile factories in China and a new Japanese restaurant here, said he thought the territory's economy was sound but that his businesses were beginning to groan under the weight of high interest rates.

"If we have to borrow money," he said, "the banks keep pushing the rates up. How are we going to keep going?"

Banks are charging businesses about 16 percent for one-month loans, and mortgage rates are creeping above 12 percent.

Investor's Asia				
Hong Kong Hang Seng	Singapore Straits Times	Tokyo Nikkei 225		
15500	2150	21500		
15000	2000	20000		
14500	1850	18500		
14000	1700	17000		
13500	1550	15500		
13000	1400	14000		
12500	1250	12500		
12000	1100	11000		
11500	950	9500		
11000	800	8000		
10500	650	6500		
10000	500	5000		
9500	350	3500		
9000	200	2000		
8500	50	500		
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2500				
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500				
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1997	1997	1997		
Exchange	Index	Thursday Close	Prev. Close	% Change
Hong Kong Hang Seng		9,720.78	9,807.91	+1.17
Singapore Straits Times		1,690.69	1,685.79	+0.29
Sydney All Ordinaries		2,504.00	2,510.90	-0.27
Tokyo Nikkei 225		15,427.27	15,434.17	-0.04
Kuala Lumpur Composite		677.58	684.49	-1.01
Bangkok SET		453.81	469.37	-3.32
Seoul Composite Index		519.47	517.49	+0.38
Taipei Stock Market Index		7,554.94	7,712.16	-2.04
Manila PSE		1,803.55	1,841.81	-2.08
Jakarta Composite Index		437.95	449.64	-2.60
Wellington NZSE-40		2,367.72	2,416.22	-2.01
Bombay Sensitive Index		3,554.10	3,723.40	-4.55

## Honda Wins The Keys to China Plant

By Seth Faison  
New York Times Service

SHANGHAI — Beating out a bid by General Motors Corp., Honda Motor Co. announced Thursday that it had won the right to make passenger cars at a plant in southern China.

Honda executives said the venture, their first auto-assembly operation in China's perplexing car market, would involve a \$200 million investment with two local partners to produce a model resembling the Honda Accord. Honda will take a 50 percent stake.

Honda is essentially betting that it can succeed where PSA Peugeot Citroen SA of France failed. Honda plans to use the same plant in Guangzhou that Peugeot pulled out of early this year. Peugeot was reportedly frustrated by low output, mounting debt and squabbles with the local partner.

Honda executives, like their counterparts at other automakers, expressed faith that the long-term potential in China's passenger-car market was worth the considerable near-term difficulties, such as bureaucratic interference, inadequate supplies and a hard-to-crack distribution network.

"We believe the Chinese market has the potential for further expansion in the future," Yoshihide Muneaki, Honda's chairman, said at a news conference in Tokyo. "We will study the possibility of exports from the Chinese plant in the future."

General Motors expressed disappointment but said it would not affect a larger commitment to GM's \$1.5 billion plant now under construction in Shanghai, where it plans to start producing Buicks in 18 months.

"We regret that it was not possible for Opel/GM to reach agreement with the authorities in Guangzhou," GM



Prime Minister Li Peng of China shaking hands Thursday with a robot during a visit to the headquarters of Honda Motor Co. in Tokyo. Honda is to become the first major Japanese automaker to build cars in China.

said. "We believe our proposal, which provided a substantial investment in Guangzhou, would have been a viable business opportunity for all parties concerned."

Honda's local partners are Guangzhou Auto Group Corp., which Peugeot executives blamed for making their venture more trouble than it was worth, and Dongfeng Motor Corp., already a partner with Honda at a plant that makes engine and suspension parts for export to other Honda plants in Asia.

The new Honda venture plans to start modestly, calling for just 30,000 vehicles a year. The first cars will be assembled in late 1999, Honda said.

Guangzhou Auto hopes to become one of a handful of automaking conglomerates that emerge in China in the coming decade. Officials in Beijing have said they hope to consolidate the nation's 123 auto-assembly plants into a dozen companies as part of a plan to make the country's cumbersome state-run industry more efficient.

Though its potential is tantalizingly large, China still has a relatively small car market. Passenger cars account for only about one-quarter of the 1.5 million vehicles assembled here, which are mostly trucks and vans.

International automakers, which are required to work with a local partner, have rarely been able to turn a profit in China. The outlook for carmakers has become increasingly hazy in recent months as car sales have dropped, and the recent economic downturn in Southeast Asia is expected to be a further impediment.

[Separately, Honda's Thai subsidiary said Thursday it had slashed car output forecasts for the year ending in March 1998 by nearly 30,000 units as domestic sales collapse amid the economic slump, Agence France-Presse reported. Honda is also cutting back Thai motorcycle output by 110,000 units.]

**Honda Profit Rises 37%**

Honda reported a 37 percent rise in first-half pretax profit, news agencies reported from Tokyo.

Honda said current, or pretax, profit rose to 222.6 billion yen (\$1.76 billion) from 162.4 billion yen a year earlier. Sales rose 13 percent, to 2.79 trillion yen. In the United States, Honda's most important market, sales jumped 29 percent, to 1.1 trillion yen.

(Bloomberg, AFP)

### Very briefly:

- Japan's newest plan to bolster the economy will not include tax cuts, according to Koji Ono, director-general of the Economic Planning Agency. He said the plan to be proposed by governing Liberal Democratic Party instead would focus on industry deregulation, measures to boost real-estate sales and steps to assist small companies.
- Japan's Transport Ministry said Volkswagen AG, Ford Motor Co. and Rolls-Royce Motor Cars Ltd. had recalled vehicles sold in the country for repair of possible defects. The ministry said there had been no accidents in Japan related to the possible defects.
- Japanese crude steel output rose in October for the 13th consecutive month, gaining 1.8 percent from a year earlier to 8.94 million metric tons, as automobile and machine makers increased production for export.
- Nintendo Co.'s first-half current, or pretax, profit rose 64 percent, to 49 billion yen (\$392.5 million), and the maker of video games forecast that full-year current profit would be 15 percent greater than earnings for the previous year, which ended in March.
- Export-Import Bank of Japan will lend \$100 million for the development of offshore oil and natural-gas fields near the Russian island of Sakhalin. Foreign Minister Keizo Obuchi of Japan said.
- NEC Corp. will announce Friday an agreement to cooperate on semiconductor technology with Philips Semiconductors, a subsidiary of Philips Electronics NV of the Netherlands.
- India will be the home of Microsoft Corp.'s first software development center outside Washington state.
- China Resources Enterprises Ltd., of which South African Breweries Ltd. owns 49 percent, paid \$10.8 million for a 90 percent stake in Sichuan Yatai Brewing Co.
- Thailand's change in government might delay the completion of purchasing agreements covering natural gas from the Gulf of Thailand. Triton Energy Ltd. said.

- Singapore Telecommunications Ltd.'s first-half profit, excluding special gains, rose 12 percent, to \$46.2 million Singapore dollars (\$600 million) on higher international calling traffic. The company had a 200,000 dollar special gain on sales of investments. Revenue rose 10 percent, to 2.4 billion dollars.
- Publicis SA of France bought a majority stake in the Inovasi advertising agency in Jakarta and opened a South Korean operation.

**PREPARATORY COMMISSION FOR THE COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR-TEST-BAN TREATY ORGANIZATION (CTBTO) EXPRESSION OF INTEREST**

**GLOBAL VSAT TELECOMMUNICATIONS NETWORK**

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Interested companies and manufacturers/suppliers should forward their expressions of interest to the following address:

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Tel (0043-1) 2131-4841, Fax 2131-6815;  
For more technical details please refer to <http://www.ctbto.org>

## JOB: An EU Clash?

Continued from Page 13

ods of the 15 EU countries, taking advantage of a European economic upswing, paying more attention to education and training, and adopting carefully targeted fiscal and financial measures, Europe could create 12 million jobs in five years.

It's been done before, he said. Between 1985 and 1990, the European Community created 10 million jobs — when "we didn't have the same economic strength as now, we didn't have the promise of a single currency, and we didn't have the profitability we see today."

But job creation then did not bring unemployment down by much because so many people, particularly women, were entering the labor market. The same could be true this time. Even if the EU succeeds in creating 12 million jobs, unemployment is unlikely to drop by more than about four points.

Mr. Flynn said the employment rate was a more objective measure than the unemployment rate because the latter told an incomplete story. Many people have given up looking for work, so they are not counted, or they are in the unofficial economy, or governments fudge the figures to make them look less bad.

"When people say there are 18 million people unemployed in Europe, I don't agree," he said. "I think it is considerably more, perhaps another 9 million. These are people who would take a job if they could get a job. Measuring the percentage of those in employment as against the total work force available is a harder measure, but it is the best way to compare with America and Japan."

### Panels Scheduled For The Two-Day Conference Include:

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- Central Asia: The Great Game in the 21st Century
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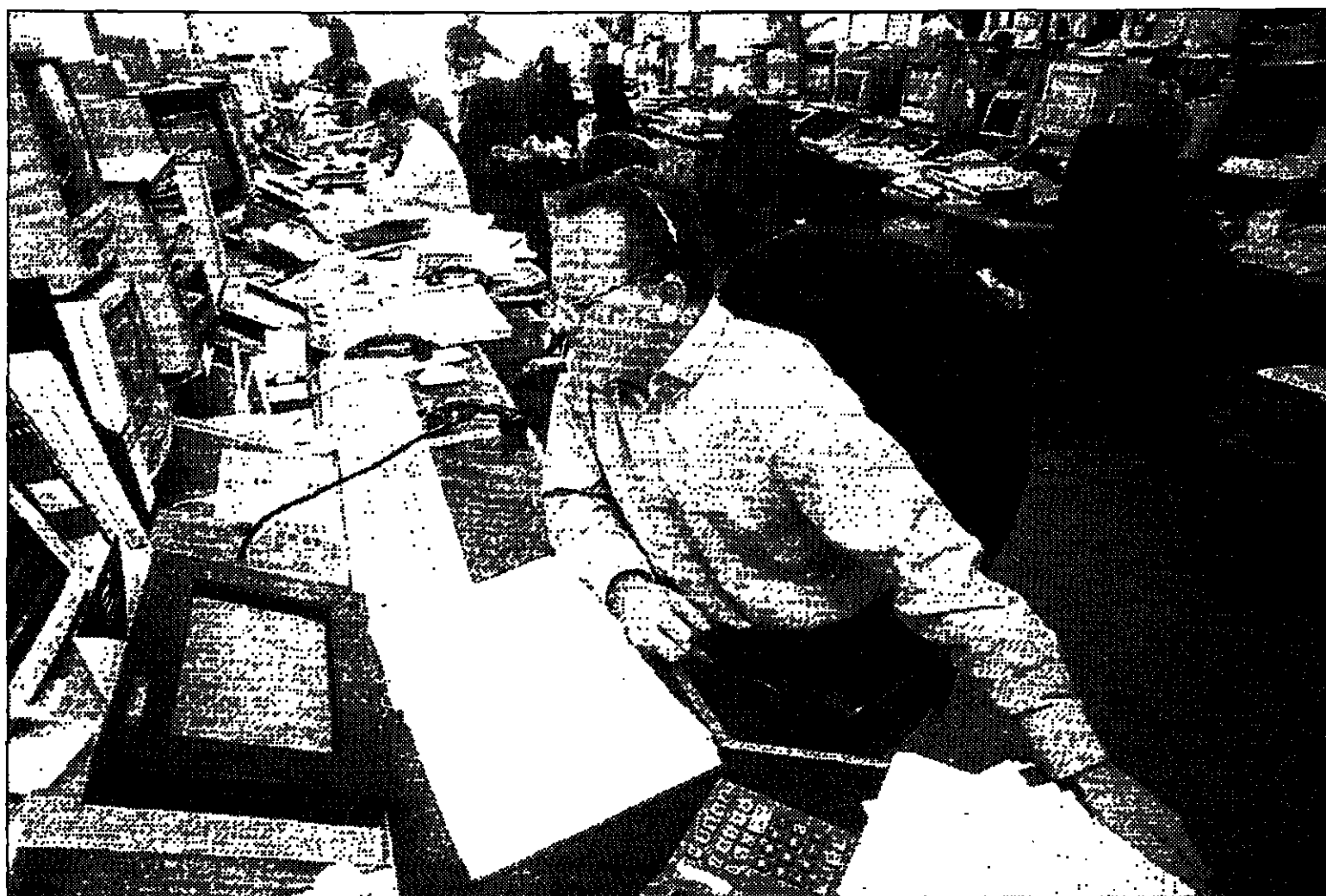
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# THE EURO AND FINANCIAL MARKETS IN FRANCE

The French financial markets will make the transition to the euro in a single move on January 4, 1999. In order to be ready, the primary, securities, futures, derivatives and other markets are ensuring that their infrastructure is in place ahead of time. In the photo, traders at the French Bourse are already technologically prepared for the instantaneous settlement of securities transactions. A new high-speed system will go into effect as soon as the euro is in place.



## EURONEXT WILL MOVE SECURITIES SEAMLESSLY

French know-how has attracted several euro zone exchanges to bridge national systems.

Plans are moving ahead to make the French-inspired Euronext link-up operational in 1998. This scheme aims to create a network of major European exchanges using the same technology. Brussels has decided to join, and Lisbon — which recently adopted the French Super CAC trading system — may do so shortly.

The basic idea underlying the Euronext project is to establish bridges between national systems so that securities may be moved about more easily," says Dominique Barbet, a bonds market analyst with Paribas bank in Paris. "In this respect, it parallels the Target system that is being set up to link banking settlement systems in European Union member states."

Euronext follows a "bottom-up" approach based on cooperation among local exchanges. French authorities believe this is more likely to succeed in the current European context than a "top-down" system starting off with a central organization.

Euronext involves creating a common technological platform and bringing about further harmonization of market rules. Stock exchange officials in Paris think the project will provide an excellent opportunity to export French know-how, and they are working to ensure that this know-how plays the leading role in Euronext's technical operations.

In addition, France has already launched a European network of small, specialized stock exchanges called Euro NM for dynamic young growth companies. Euro NM is acting as a curtain-raiser for the Euronext link-up between the main exchanges, and it demonstrates the bottom-up approach to European integration of markets that is favored by Paris.

The French authorities first created a domestic NM (*Nouveau Marché*, or new market) in 1996. Brussels, Amsterdam and Frankfurt then set up their own NM markets and joined the Euro

NM network with France earlier this year.

The French NM makes use of the existing technological infrastructure of the Paris Bourse, including the NSC trade and information system, the IFM data-feed to information vendors and the Relit clearing and settlement procedure.

The Euro NM initiative involves three main elements: harmonization of listing and trading standards, joint marketing efforts and technological integration of the member exchanges. This last element involves linking dealing rooms and workstations, thus creating a common data-feed to information vendors. The system rests essentially on communications protocols between each member exchange, and it operates through bilateral links.

Says Jean-François Théodore, chairman and chief executive officer of the Paris Bourse: "There are currently 23 markets in derivatives products in Europe and 32 different exchanges (including regional German ones) for trading shares and bonds. It is difficult to imagine this situation continuing indefinitely in a unified euro zone."

In addition to growing competition between existing exchanges, Mr. Théodore also foresees the emergence of new delocalized electronic systems. "In this respect, one can look at what is happening already in the United States, where the Instinet system, for example, is providing serious competition for the NASDAQ exchange," says Mr. Théodore. "No exchange in Europe — with the possible exception of London — will be able to confront this new reality on its own without entering into strategic alliances."

"For example, in Scandinavia, the Stockholm and Copenhagen exchanges have entered into an important cooperation agreement. At the same time, markets such as Italy, Spain and the Benelux countries now face fundamental strategic decisions about their future."

## A NATION GETS READY FOR BIG BANG CURRENCY TRANSITION

France's state-of-the-art technology is already poised to lead the Continent's monetary integration. Stocks and bonds have long been traded electronically.

The waves of turbulence rolling in from Asia might temporarily be affecting world equities markets, including those in Paris, but France is moving ahead with ambitious plans to prepare its capital and money markets for the single currency in 1999.

In addition to installing new technology, Paris authorities are forging cross-border alliances to boost the trading benefits of the euro zone. Franco-German cooperation is particularly important in this respect.

French markets enjoy a particular advantage in making the above transition: Stocks and bonds have been traded electronically in Paris since the mid-1980s. Moreover, the Sicoval registry — which logged more than 100 trillion francs' (\$17.5 trillion) worth of stocks and bonds operations last year — provides fully computerized registration of all French securities. At the same time, the recently updated automated securities settlement procedure called *Relit à grande vitesse* (high-speed settlement system) will enable instantaneous

settlement of securities transactions. It will go into effect as the new single currency swings into force.

On December 31, 1996, the Paris Bourse boasted a trading volume of 1.45 billion francs, a market capitalization of 3.08 billion francs in French equities and 4.53 billion francs in bonds. Owing in part to the flotation of France Telecom, the equities capitalization had risen to around 4 billion francs by September 30 of this year, and trading turnover had risen by 70 percent.

Observers of the French financial markets think the euro will make the markets stronger, more liquid and more competitive by creating a Europe-wide trading area and by eliminating the need to carry out currency-exchange operations in cross-border transactions within the euro zone. One vital consequence of this will be to make the markets sector-oriented as opposed to nation-based.

"Once the single currency has come into force, the euro zone will be the second-most important monetary area in the

world after the U.S. dollar," says Jean-François Théodore, chairman and chief executive officer of the Paris Bourse. "Euro-zone countries, including France, will then be much more attractive to major international investors, including those from the United States and Asia. Moreover, company analyses will no longer be made on a national basis but rather by sector — for example, automotive industry, high-tech, luxury goods and so on."

This will lead to a general dismantling of the invisible walls between the different national markets, enabling much simpler arbitrage operations between securities quoted on the different exchanges.

"Europe's largest exchanges are today reasoning as if the euro zone had already been created," says Mr. Théodore.

### French model

Even though trading volumes on the London exchange are roughly two and a half times greater than those in Paris, Mr. Théodore believes that the French markets enjoy a number of advantages in the burgeoning competition for the securities business across Europe.

"The London stock exchange has a number of strong points, though technologically it has been slower to modernize than Paris," Mr. Théodore continues. France has entered the second generation of its automated trading system with its Super CAC procedure, whereas London's automated trading system has just begun.

"Even more than the technological changeover that this represents, London is now faced with a more fundamental cultural challenge," Mr. Théodore adds. "This is to switch over from the old market-making system. In that system, intermediaries quote buying and selling prices to a central market environment, in which the market brings offers to buy and sell directly together, and the central market determines the price."

The change in trading practice results from the fact that the new automated system in London allows traders to be linked directly on-line to the central market. Most European exchanges, including the one in Paris, operate on the central-market principle.

"France is probably the most advanced country in Europe with regard to stock exchange automation. What is now needed is to create similar systems at the European level," Mr. Théodore says.

Automation of French market activities extends well beyond the immediate market players. Automated link-ups, for example, can be arranged between the exchange and the final clients in cases where the intermediary wishes to operate in this way. Also, individual customers have for some time been able to give electronic stock exchange orders through France Telecom's Minitel system. There are now around 12 million Minitel terminals in France, and plans are moving ahead to provide links between the Minitel and the Internet.

Around 5.2 million individual French residents — about 9 percent of the population — own stock, and about one-third of the French markets' total capitalization consists of investments by individuals.

"We have always been keen to encourage investment by individuals as well as by institutions," says Mr. Théodore. "An important technological factor encouraging individual investment is the way electronics is making access by individuals to the markets easier. One example is the introduction of systems that facilitate trading in any number of shares, including small quantities." A key move in this respect has been the abolition of former requirements to trade in minimum lots.

### Federal system

All the French financial markets are planning to make the transition to the euro in a single move (the "Big Bang") on January 4, 1999, rather than in stages. This means that the primary, securities, futures, derivatives and other markets are all working to ensure that their logistical and technical infrastructure is in place ahead of time.

"Financial markets will be substantially merged once the single currency is introduced. This will apply particularly to money market operations such as swaps, though dealings in equities will not be merged to the same extent," says Dominique Barbet, a bonds market analyst at Paribas bank in Paris.

Structural reasons largely explain this difference. "So far as monetary matters are concerned, Europe will operate as a federal system," Mr. Barbet continues.

The European Central Bank — which is in Frankfurt — will function as the reserve bank at the core of this

Continued on page 21

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"THE EURO AND FINANCIAL MARKETS"  
was produced in its entirety by the Advertising Department  
of the International Herald Tribune.  
WRITER: Michael Rowe, based in Paris.  
PROGRAM DIRECTOR: Bill Mahler.



11/2/2006 11:20 AM



**WORLD ROUNDUP**

**'72 Olympic Hurdler Is Found Dead at 47**

Rod Milburn, who won a gold medal at the 1972 Olympics in the 110-meter hurdles, was found dead in a rail car containing a caustic, liquid chemical at the paper plant where he worked. He was 47.

Milburn was found late Tuesday, submerged in the chemical, by a supervisor who went looking for him when he failed to answer a page at a Georgia Pacific paper plant near Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Authorities said they did not suspect foul play.

Milburn had been assigned to unload the rail car, which contained liquid sodium chlorate, a chemical used in the bleaching process of paper making, said Patty Pratts-Swanson, a spokeswoman for Georgia Pacific. Preliminary autopsy results showed that Milburn died after inhaling the solution and suffering massive burns to his body.

Milburn won the 1972 gold medal in 13.24 seconds, a record that was not broken for five years. The year before the Olympics he went undefeated, winning 27 consecutive amateur finals. (AP)

**Keenan Hired by Canucks**

HOCKEY Mike Keenan is returning to the NHL as coach of the struggling Vancouver Canucks.

Once Bay Sports and Entertainment, the Canucks' parent company, said Thursday that Keenan would replace Tom Renney and would coach the Canucks in Anaheim on Friday night. The dismissal of Renney followed last week's firing of the team's president and general manager, Pat Quinn.

Keenan has been out of hockey for more than a year and the move would reunite him with Mark Messier. The two helped send the New York Rangers to a Stanley Cup title in 1994. (AP)

**It's Crowded at the Top**

GOLF Peter McWhinney of Australia and Yoshiaki Mizumaki and Yoshitaka Yamamoto of Japan shot 6-under-par 66s on Thursday to share the first-round lead in the Taiheiyō Masters in Gotemba, Japan.

Jose Maria Olazabal of Spain, the winner in 1989 and 1990, was a stroke back along with Roger Mackay and Stewart Ginn of Australia and Naomichi Ozaki and Katsunori Kuwabara of Japan. "Five-under par is a good score, but I feel that I can improve on my shots anyway," said Olazabal, who is making a successful comeback from severe foot problems. "I feel great. It's nice to be back in Japan." (AP)

**Holyfield Is Early Pick**

BOXING A Nevada sports book has made Evander Holyfield a favorite over Lennox Lewis if the two meet for the undisputed heavyweight championship.

The Las Vegas Hilton posted odds this week of Holyfield as a 7-5 favorite. But the odds are contingent on the fight being held by Dec. 31, 1998. "The public is definitely going to bet Evander but, personally, I like Lennox," said the book's manager, Art Manteris, said Wednesday. (AP)

**Kafelnikov Breezes by Chang**

The Associated Press

HANNOVER, Germany — Yevgeni Kafelnikov blasted past Michael Chang, 6-3, 6-0, in 57 minutes Thursday to become the first player to qualify for the semifinals of this year's ATP Tour World Championship.

Kafelnikov, with a perfect 2-0 record, was helped by Jonas Bjorkman's 6-3, 6-1 victory over an ailing Sergi Bruguera. Bruguera dropped to 0-2 and was the first player to be eliminated.

Chang, the tournament's runner-up in 1995, dropped to 1-1 and will play Bjorkman on Friday for a place in the semifinals. Bjorkman is also 1-1.

The \$3.3 million tournament brings together the top eight players in the world, split into two groups. The top two from each group advance to the semifinals.

Meanwhile, Greg Rusedski pulled out of the championship because of a hamstring injury.

Rusedski, the first British representative to qualify for the season-ending event, was replaced by an alternate, Thomas Muster. Carlos Moya beat Muster, 6-2, 6-3, late Thursday. Muster could not have qualified for the semifinals even if he had won. Rusedski, ranked No. 5 in the world, had lost his first two matches.

Kafelnikov, ranked No. 6 in the world, is playing his third consecutive ATP championship and has reached the semifinals for the first time. He overcame Chang by hitting winners from all over the court, nailing the lines and corners with powerful ground strokes.

"I cannot play better than that—it's by far the best match of the year for me," said Kafelnikov, who missed more than three months at the beginning of the year because of a broken finger on his right hand.

The Russian clinched a berth in the

event Sunday by winning the Kremlin Cup in Moscow, his third title of the year. He also reached the semifinals of the Paris Open the week before.

Chang said he had used a bad game plan. "If you ever wanted to know a specific way not to play Yevgeni Kafelnikov, you should watch this match," Chang said. "Yevgeni was in a pretty good groove the whole match. I myself just couldn't get going."

Chang has lost both of his two career encounters with Kafelnikov.

Kafelnikov broke for a 3-1 lead and faced two break points while serving for the first set. He hit an ace, took the next point and held on to win the set.

He rolled through the second set, breaking the American's serve three times. A shot off the net gave Kafelnikov a break point in the fifth game, and Chang then hit a forehand into the net. Kafelnikov capitalized on his second match point when Chang hit a return into the net.

"He was too passive, and he gave me a chance to dictate the match," Kafelnikov said. "Once I was ahead, he never came back."

Chang is making his sixth appearance at the elite event, in which he now has a 7-15 record. He came into the tournament with a three-match losing streak before beating Bruguera in his opener.

Bjorkman, who has shot to a No. 4 world ranking, needed even less time against a dispirited Bruguera, winning in 52 minutes. Bruguera, with pain in his back and ribs, indicated he may also drop out of his last group match against Kafelnikov.

Rusedski, the big-serving Canadian-born left-hander who plays for Britain, complained about his injury after losing to top-ranked Pete Sampras on Wednesday, saying he had woken up with a tight hamstring.

He was denied a 24-hour postponement, but he said it made no difference because two doctors had told him he had to take a week off.

Sampras's 6-4, 7-5 victory over Rusedski put him back on course for his fourth title. He lost his opening match to Moya.

In each of the three years that he won the title, Sampras lost a match in the round-robin portion of the event. Sampras had a day off Thursday and needs to beat Patrick Rafter (2-0) on Friday to advance.

**Hingis Struggles but Wins**

Top-ranked Martina Hingis got a fight in the second round of the Advanta Championships from the unseeded and 18th-ranked Sabine Appelmans, who flustered with an upset before falling 6-2, 4-6, 6-2. The Associated Press reported from Villanova, Pennsylvania.

"Every time I've played her before, I've thought I could've done a little more," said Appelmans, who is 0-5 against Hingis. "I just told myself to go for it."

Appelmans was down 3-0 in a first set that took only 24 minutes Wednesday but went on to break Hingis's serve four times before a double-fault at 2-2 of the third set drained her momentum.

A lengthy sequence at deuce of the sixth game ended with Appelmans collapsing over the net, laughing.

"I was more trying to enjoy myself and not trying to think about winning or losing," Appelmans said.

Hingis said she was rusty after a three-week layoff. "I played well in the beginning, then lost my concentration," she said. "She played great, running all over, smacking one return after another."

Hingis said she expected similar all-out challenges from Appelmans in the future.



Yevgeni Kafelnikov lining up a serve against Michael Chang in Hannover.

**Griffey Sweeps MVP Vote**

By Claire Smith  
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — Ken Griffey Jr. continued to fulfill his destiny as baseball's undisputed best player when he was the unanimous choice for the American League's Most Valuable Player award in balloting by the Baseball Writers Association of America.

It was the first MVP award for the Seattle Mariner center fielder, who had been challenged by Barry Bonds, a three-time MVP, to win something before being ceded the unofficial title of the best player in the major leagues.

Griffey, already the game's most popular personality, did win something, with a season in which he led the league in home runs (56), runs batted in (147), runs scored (125), total bases (393), extra base hits (93) and slugging (.646).

Thanks to that showing, Griffey became the ninth unanimous selection in the AL, and the first since Frank Thomas of the White Sox in 1993, receiving all 28 first-place votes cast by the jury of two writers from each of the league cities to

total a perfect 392 points. He easily outdistanced the Yankees' Tino Martinez (.296, 44 homers, 141 RBIs), a former Griffey teammate who got 24 second-place votes and four third-place for 248 points in a system based on 14 points for first place, 9 for second, 8 for third, on down to 1 point for 10th place.

Thomas, the AL batting champion with a .347 average, hit 35 homers and drove in 125 runs. He finished third with 172 points.

Griffey seemed overwhelmed Wednesday by the award, one never won by his father, the former major leaguer Ken Griffey. Speaking from Hawaii in a conference call with reporters soon after being informed, he said:

"I'm happy, but I'm still in a little bit of shock. I just really don't know what to say or how to say or how to react. This award means a lot. You go out and play hard. It's the one award that writers choose. As a kid, you always think about being the MVP of your team."

But Griffey said he would not consider his accomplishments complete until he wears a World Series championship ring, like his father. "He has three and I have none," Griffey said. "It is something I want to be a part of. He's got the flags hanging off the mantel and I don't."

Griffey had a dispute with the Hall of Famer and ESPN commentator Reggie Jackson, who suggested in midseason that the Mariners were no longer the team of a slumping Griffey, but rather belonged to the shortstop sensation Alex Rodriguez, comments that caused Griffey to consider skipping baseball's All-Star home run contest, which was televised by the cable network.

Two days after the All-Star Game, Griffey's mother-in-law died of congestive heart failure; Griffey, obviously shaken, fell deeper into the slump in which he hit only one homer and drove in just 13 runs from June 23 to July 24.

It was during that time that Griffey uncharacteristically lashed out at the Mariners' front office for not improving the team and complained of never being perceived as being good enough or appreciated as other players were.

"June and July were kind of tough," Griffey said Wednesday. "I wasn't so much worried about myself, but my wife and my kids. But I think they hung in there a lot better than I did. I struggled, but a lot of people didn't know why."



Ken Griffey Jr. watching the ball's flight on his way to becoming his 55th homer of the season, Sept. 22.

**German Tennis Counts on Becker**

International Herald Tribune

THERE ARE Germans behind the ticket counters, Germans behind the concession stands, Germans and more Germans (at least for now) in their very expensive seats.

But for the first time since the men's year-end tennis championships abandoned Manhattan and the infinitely catchier nickname "The Masters" in 1990, there are no Germans on court to entertain them.

Boris Becker is short on computer points and semiretired. Longtime foil Michael Stich is short on motivation and completely retired, and though Nicolas Pietrangeli and Tommy Haas both look very promising, neither one is ever going to do what Becker did: win Wimbledon at 17 and become an instant national touchstone.

It is indubitably the end of an era, and as in any *fin de regne*, the would-be survivors are edgy.

The ATP Tour, which runs the eight-man, round-robin event in Hannover and bills it optimistically as a "World Championship," depends on Germany for major chunks of its television revenue and sponsorship, which explains why there are now hood ornaments affixed to the nets at its most prestigious tournaments.

The German Tennis Federation, known by its German acronym DTB, has overseen unprecedented growth thanks to the myriad exploits of Becker, Stich and Steffi Graf, who, it bears remembering, has not yet had her last word or serve.

It is tempting in this globalized epoch to consider tennis a recession-resistant game: Becker and Stich fade away, tak-

ing their market with them; new stars emerge, bringing their markets with them.

The British market is booming with the exotic import Greg Rusedski and the local product Tim Henman. So is the Australian market with cover boy Patrick Rafter, and the South American market looks bullish, as well, with Chile's crotchety Marcelo Rios and Brazil's French open champion Gustavo Kuerten (neither of whom qualified for Hannover).

If the ATP Tour's chief executive officer, Mark Miles, and his fellow technocrats can somehow develop a serviceable prototype who hails from Japan and a charismatic (read: palatably zany) American champion to follow in the designer sneaker-prints of Pete Sampras and Andre Agassi, the transition just might go swimmingly.

But for the moment, Germany, with its large, affluent, media-savvy population, is essential to maintaining the inflationary spiral that has pushed prize money through the roof and, in some instances, player accessibility through the floor. So just what does Germany, with its 2.2 million club players and 51,000 club courts, plan on doing?

It appears that it will continue to rely heavily on the same transcendent figure who ignited the boom at the All England Club in 1985: Becker.

AS RECENTLY as last spring, it looked like Becker would pick up his marbles and aura and multicultural family and go home to Florida

instead of Munich. The German tax authorities were making ominous rumblings, and Becker — arguably as big a star in Germany as Michael Jordan is in the United States — sounded weary of the quotidian pressures that come with being iconic. But by last month, he had agreed to become manager of the German Davis Cup team, a post which might sound slightly ceremonial but is, in truth, no sinecure.

Becker will be responsible for marketing Davis Cup in Germany, attracting sponsors and overseeing the team's preparation under captain and hand-picked Becker confidante Carl-Uwe Steeb. Add that to Becker's pre-existing commitment to supervise the junior team sponsored by Mercedes, which includes Kiefer, and the 30-year-old Becker is now the key figure in the German men's game.

"I want to help Germany stay on the map in world tennis," said Becker, who defined himself recently in the German press as "a sports politician."

"What Boris wants to do," said the DTB president, Claus Stauder, "is to work from the base of the game to the top and give all his experience back to German tennis. He has changed a lot. If you would have discussed such matters with him even a year ago, he was a different person."

Stauder, who became president several months before Becker won his first Wimbledon, believes Becker came to the conclusion that gilded retirement in Florida was only a short-term solution. Becker already has one positive role model: friend and former French star Yannick Noah, who has consistently turned *l'eau into Bordeaux* in his tenure as France's Davis Cup maestro.

But Becker is under more pressure, as is Stauder and everyone else associated with tennis in a nation where club membership already has dropped 2 percent in the last year. And that is why longtime German Davis Cup captain and manager, Nikki Pilic, whose contract ran through September 1998, was asked to step down ahead of schedule and accept an adviser's role.

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19 Random one

20



SPORTS

# Hawks Down Pacers to Grab 8th Straight

The Associated Press  
Dikembe Mutombo scored 25 points, Steve Smith had 21 and the Atlanta Hawks improved to 8-0 for the best start in franchise history as they beat the Indiana Pacers, 89-86.

## NBA Roundup

last 10 seconds Wednesday night in Indianapolis. Smith had a basket and three free throws in the last two minutes.

Travis Best had an open 3-point attempt from the left side with 0.8 seconds left, but it rimmed out. He was taking the final shot because Reggie Miller, who scored 30 points, fouled out with 1:21 to play. It was just his second disqualification in the past three seasons.

Celtics 96, Muggers 86 In Boston, Antoine Walker had 19 points and 12 rebounds and the Celtics won for the first time since the season's opening night. Ron Mercer added 16 points, including eight in the fourth quarter, and Travis Knight had 17 — two shy of his career-high. Denver dropped to a dismal 0-6 record under its rookie coach, Bill Hamzlik.

Kings 115, Magic 89 Mitch Richmond scored 25 points and Sacramento won on the road for the first time this season. Mahmoud Abdul-Rauf added 20 for the Kings, who placed six players in double figures and reached 100 points for the first time this season. Derek Strong had 17 points off the bench for the Magic, who shot only 41 percent.

Knicks 93, Raptors 70 In Toronto, Larry Johnson scored 27 points, more than twice his season average, as New York coasted past the Raptors. Johnson, who apologized for his poor shooting in a loss at Sacramento last Sunday, scored 16 points in the first half on 8-of-11 shooting as the Knicks, who were up by as many as 20 points in the second quarter, opened a 50-35 lead at the break.



The Bulls' Michael Jordan going for the rebound against Juwan Howard of the Washington Wizards during second-quarter action in Chicago.

Wizards 90, Bulls 88 The struggling Bulls lost their fourth game — something that didn't happen until Dec. 26 last year — as Chris Webber led a second-half surge that carried visiting Washington to victory. Webber scored 8 of his 17 points during a 12-2 second-half run and drew a technical foul against Dennis Rodman that precipitated a game-clinching 5-0 run. Washington held Chicago to 30 second-half points.

Jazz 96, Grizzlies 80 Karl Malone scored 26 points, and Jeff Hammeck added 19 as host Utah beat Vancouver. Greg Foster finished with 10 points on 5-of-6 shooting, and Adam Keefe scored four points and grabbed nine rebounds.

## SCOREBOARD

### BASKETBALL

#### NBA STANDINGS

CONFERENCE	TEAM	W	L	PCT	GB
EASTERN	New Jersey	4	1	.800	—
	Miami	4	2	.667	1 1/2
	New York	3	2	.600	2 1/2
	Orlando	3	2	.600	2 1/2
	Washington	3	2	.600	2 1/2
	Boston	3	2	.600	2 1/2
	Philadelphia	3	2	.600	2 1/2
	Atlanta	3	2	.600	2 1/2
	Charlotte	3	2	.600	2 1/2
	Indiana	3	2	.600	2 1/2
WESTERN	San Antonio	4	1	.800	—
	Minnesota	4	2	.667	1 1/2
	Dallas	3	2	.600	2 1/2
	Houston	3	2	.600	2 1/2
	Utah	3	2	.600	2 1/2
	Denver	3	2	.600	2 1/2
	Vancouver	3	2	.600	2 1/2
	Portland	3	2	.600	2 1/2
	Seattle	3	2	.600	2 1/2
	Los Angeles	3	2	.600	2 1/2

### EUROLEAGUE

GROUP A	TEAM	W	L	PCT	GB
GROUP A	CSKA Moscow	4	1	.800	—
	PAOK Salonika	3	2	.600	1 1/2
	Partizan Belgrade	3	2	.600	1 1/2
	AEK Athens	3	2	.600	1 1/2
GROUP B	Estudiantes Madrid	4	1	.800	—
	Real Madrid	3	2	.600	1 1/2
	Barcelona	3	2	.600	1 1/2
	Real Madrid	3	2	.600	1 1/2

### ICE HOCKEY

NHL STANDINGS	
EASTERN CONFERENCE	
ATLANTIC DIVISION	
	W L T
Philadelphia	11 5 3
New Jersey	12 5 0
Washington	10 7 2
N.Y. Islanders	7 7 4
N.Y. Rangers	4 7 7

# What to Do About the NFL Muggers?

## Fines Don't Seem to Work, but a Pass-Rusher Rap Sheet Might

By Dave Anderson  
New York Times Service

It's the National Football League's most persistent problem: how to protect its quarterbacks from being mugged, if not dismembered or disconnected from their senses.

And this year, judging by the number of pass-rushers who have been fined for what is a pro football felony, it is more of a problem than ever. Including the preseason, the NFL acknowledged that 25 players already have been fined, usually \$7,500, for "hitting on a quarterback."

"None of those 25," said Greg Aiello, the NFL vice president of public relations, "has been a repeat offender."

But the possible levy of another \$7,500 fine for the hitter is hardly equal to the possible lengthy absence of the hittee.

It is time for the NFL to put its pass-rushing predators on notice: Adopt a hit-the-quarterback point system similar to the National Basketball Association's flagrant-foul point policy that went into effect three years ago. In the NBA, it is one point for unnecessary contact. Two points for unnecessary and excessive contact. If a player accumulates five points in a season, he is automatically suspended for one game, as Charles

Barkey was in 1995.

"Ever since we put the point system in," said Rod Thorn, the NBA's dean of discipline, "we haven't had that much of a problem. When you get a couple of points, you watch what you're doing."

In the NFL, it could be one point for a roughing-the-passer penalty or an unnecessary-roughness penalty, two points for a hit on a quarterback (or any other player) that warranted a fine. If a player accumulates five points, he would be automatically suspended for one game. For every two points beyond five, he again would be suspended for one game. Unlike the NBA, which wipes the slate clean at the start of the 86-game season, the NFL rap sheet should run throughout a player's career.

Is that harsh? Yes, but it is not as harsh as the injuries that defenseless quarterbacks are subject to in assaults by 300-pound (135-kilogram) defensive linemen and 250-pound linebackers.

During the preseason, two pass-rushers were fined \$20,000 each — the Broncos' linebacker Bill Romanowski for breaking the jaw of the Panthers' quarterback Kerry Collins, and the Panthers' defensive end Lamar Lathon for mugging the Chiefs' quarterback Rich Gannon. Among those fined \$7,500 was John Randle, the Viking defensive tackle, for a roughing-the-passer pen-

alty on the Cardinals' quarterback Kent Graham.

Since 1994 the Chicago-based Stats Inc., with a spotter at each NFL game, has recorded which players incur what might be called mugging penalties — roughing the passer, unnecessary roughness, personal fouls, late hits, kicking, illegal use of forearm, 15-yard face-mask calls. According to Stats Inc., over nearly four seasons Randle has been whistled for 10 of those infractions, the Lions' defensive end Robert Porcher for nine, the Chargers' linebacker Junior Seau for eight, the Cardinals' defensive tackle Eric Swann and the Bears' defensive end Alonzo Spellman each for seven.

Of Randle's 10 penalties, eight were for roughing the passer — three this year, including the \$7,500 hit on Graham. If the proposed point-system policy were in effect, Randle would have been suspended for one game after his first roughing-the-passer penalty in 1996, and he would have been suspended for one game twice this season. Porcher, Seau, Swann and Spellman, along with a few others with five infractions, also would have been suspended.

In a 16-game season, even one game is a severe sentence. But some quarterbacks battered by predators frequently miss more than one game. Some miss a whole season.

# Devils Stop Rangers, 3-2, for 4th Straight

Petr Sykora, Brian Rolston and Bobby DiSalvo scored for the New Jersey Devils, who won their fourth consecutive game, beating the New York Rangers at Madison Square Garden by a score of 3-2. The Rangers were left behind by two goals.

Capitalis 4, Penguins 1 Adam Oates scored one goal and assisted on two in

a four-goal second period for visiting Washington. The Capitals' goalie, Olaf Kolzig, lost his shutout with 58 seconds left in the third period when Jiri Slegr scored.

Islanders 2, Panthers 2 Eric Fichaud stopped 37 shots and visiting New York scored two goals in a 1:26 span in the second period.

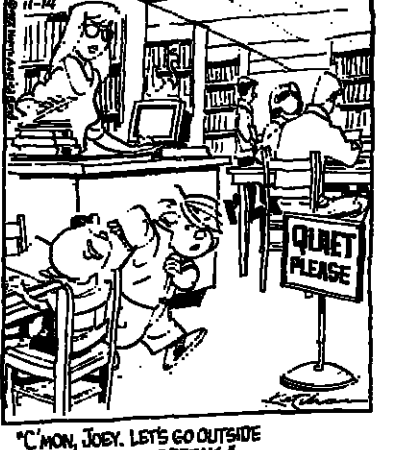
Bruins 3, Stars 3 In Dallas, Ted Donato scored with 41.5 seconds left, after Boston pulled its goalie to gain an extra attacker.

Murricanes 6, Oilers 4 In Edmonton, Sami Kapanen recorded his first NHL hat trick as Carolina extended the Oilers' winless streak to seven games.

Canucks 5, Sharks 2 Pavel Bure scored on a penalty shot, igniting a three-goal first period as visiting Vancouver ended a club-record 10-game losing streak.

Canadians 4, Mighty Ducks 3 In Anaheim, Valeri Bure scored with 52 seconds left in overtime as Montreal won its sixth straight game. (AP, NYT)

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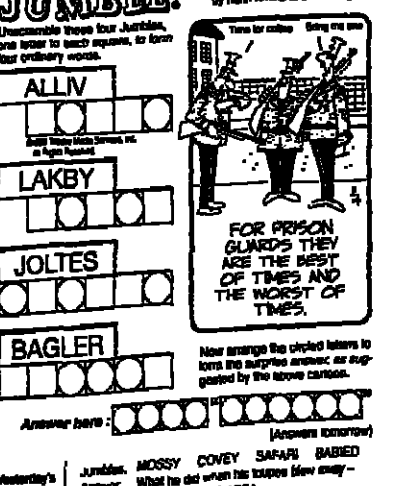
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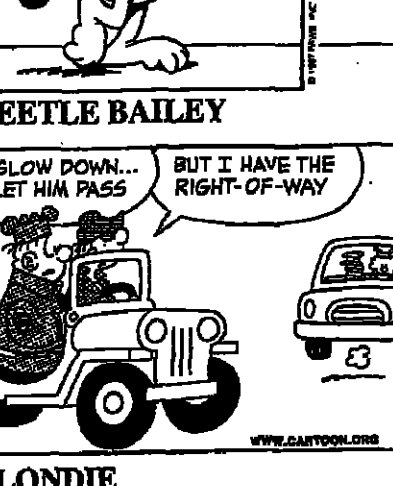
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## POSTCARD

## Verse in the Saddle

By James Brooke  
New York Times Service

GREELEY, Colorado — It was the gala banquet of an annual congress of snowplow drivers, big taciturn men, some with tattoos. Empty beer bottles littered the tables by the time Baxter Black, an impish man in an orange shirt, climbed the stage to read poetry.

Fortified by nothing stronger than a pinch of snuff, America's leading cowboy poet worked the crowd's emotions as expertly as he once worked feedlot cattle. For the largely male audience, he declaimed "My Kinda Truck":

Power windows on pickups? Reminds me of jeans  
With a zipper that slips up the side.  
They should soak up the dents of everyday life,  
Like a boxer lovin' his teeth.

And I like a truck, when you lift up the hood,  
You can see the ground underneath!

The raucous crowd turned pensive and misty-eyed when he recited "The Mountain," verses that resonated among men and women facing a winter of clearing some of America's most avalanche-prone highways.

Nobody rides the Mountaintop when winter's locked her jaws.  
The Mountain bears the brunt alone, his shoulder to the claws.  
She carves great gashes down his flank like butchers flensing sheep.

To the dismay of purists who think poets should be commercial failures, Black is probably the most successful living American poet. Since 1980, his 13 books of poetry and essays have sold 350,000 copies, and he has made 10 poetry videos, dozens of audiocassettes and given about 1,600 public performances. He writes a weekly newspaper column and a weekly comic strip ("Ag Man") and records radio commercials for clients like the Texas State Fair and Rawhide Root Beer.

Black's sales figures are the more remarkable for being concentrated in the nation's least populated region, the rural interior West, home to roughly 5 percent of the nation's people. But Black, with his gray felt Resistol hat, his chestnut eyes framed by crinkles from years of outdoor work, and his mustache drooping to his chin like an old rope, is part of a literary movement that has taken off in these parts: cowboy poetry.

"It combines something masculine with the feminine," Black said of the runaway regional success of cowboy poetry in the last 15 years.

Cowboy poetry's modern renaissance dates to January 1985, when the Western Folklife Center took a gamble and held a gathering of cowboy poets in Elko, Nevada. On the first night, organizers were so nervous they almost put away some of the folding chairs out of fear that there would be only a sparse crowd, but several hundred people turned out.

But from this weekend event, the gathering has expanded into a weeklong extravaganza, drawing 9,000 people every January to Elko, selling out local hotels weeks in advance. "There are now 200 cowboy poetry events that are modeled after ours, largely in small towns in the West," Hal Cannon, the center's founding director, said from Elko.

By Claudia Dreifus  
New York Times Service

MALIBU, California — Barbra Streisand is in love. And she's wearing a white-diamond engagement ring on her elegantly manicured right hand. And she's waxing every bit as ecstatic as the lyrics to one of her hit songs.

"He's so nurturing," Streisand enthused about her fiancé, the actor James Brolin, during a six-hour conversation at her beach-front estate in Malibu. "He's my lover, and my romantic other self."

But he also fills a need. I now know what it is to have a father," she says. "I want to give him lamb stew on a cold night, like last night."

Followers of Barbra Joan Streisand's legend know of the details of her early story. She was 15 months old when her father, Emanuel, died. Afterward she lived a miserable Brooklyn childhood, always striving for attention from an embittered mother, battling her disapproving stepfather, dreaming of someday getting out and becoming a movie star.

Streisand, 55, has been making movies and recordings for more than 30 years now. As an actress, she broadened the concept of beauty, glorifying her imperfect nose, emphasizing her ethnic style. More important, Streisand smashed through Hollywood's glass ceiling by becoming the first woman to produce, direct and star in her own films. It is that accomplishment, she says, that has made her a sometimes unpopular figure within sectors of the entertainment industry.

"Why am I called an egotist?" she asks, rhetorically. "Is it because I dare to do more than one job? Why do you think men are not called egotists? Why isn't Kevin Costner called an egotist for acting and directing his own movies? Or

Mel Gibson? I just think it's a sexist attitude, that's all."

Talk like that makes a visitor expect a feminist firebrand. Yet spend an afternoon with Streisand, and you see a contradictory woman who is never very far from the fatherless child. Indeed, you expect a tycoon in the mold of a Barbara Stanwyck character. Instead, you find Helen Gurley Brown, with a touch of mysticism.

For instance, Streisand says that as she was ruminating about whether or not to direct the 1983 film "Yentl," she went to visit her father's grave for the first time, "because I was angry, probably, that he died on me."

Later that day, she invited a medium to the home of her older brother, Sheldon. "We're sitting around this table at my brother's house," she recalls. "There are no strings, no electrical wires, there's nothing touching this table. The table starts to move. I get so scared, I run into the bathroom. I finally come out."

The table, raised a leg, made a noise on the floor and seemed to spell out her name. "And who is the spirit in the room? M-A-N-N-Y, which is my father's nickname. The message to Barbra from Manny, 'S-O-R-R-Y.' And then, 'S-I-N-G P-R-O-U-D.'"

Streisand says that this moment seemed a signal that she should direct the movie. Of all the films she has made, she is most proud of "Yentl," because, "it was dedicated to my father," she says. "I felt like I had almost created him. I had a father in that movie. He lived."

As for the father substitute in her life now, Brolin came to her by a more conventional method, a blind date. It happened 16 months ago, and there was an instant attraction. Two months after the romance began, Brolin went off to Ireland to act in and direct "My Brother's War," a small independent film. Streisand finished editing her own

Of all her films, she is proudest of 'Yentl,' dedicated to her father.



Streisand at her beach-front estate in Malibu, California.

"The Mirror Has Two Faces," and then flew to his side.

"I really wanted to support Jim, because I knew how difficult it was to direct a movie that you're in," she says. "I had been with men who were not so supportive when I was doing a movie. So I really wanted to give him what I felt I didn't get. I would get up at 5 and give him breakfast and help him through that ordeal."

Years ago, she was married to the actor Elliot Gould. They have a son, Jason, now 30. She has dated Don Johnson and Andre Agassi, and there was a long, stormy relationship with the producer Jon Peters.

She also dated Pierre Elliott Trudeau, the former Canadian prime minister. "Trudeau was a man I wasn't ready for," she says. "In other words, he was magnificent. It

reads scripts. He's doing his work, but he's with me. He doesn't feel neglected. He understands the process. I mean, it's a mitzvah. It's a blessing. It's a joy."

Her publicist, Dick Guttman, said the couple were likely to be married after the New Year.

Streisand, who has long been interested in politics, is a major supporter of President Bill Clinton, for whom she has only the most enthusiastic praise. Perhaps one reason for her unfailing enthusiasm for the president is her personal closeness to members of his family.

If Brolin is her father substitute, then the president's mother, Virginia Kelley, who died in 1994, was, for a while, her mother of choice. "I called her my Southern mom," Streisand says. "She knew how to soothe with words. Virginia would say, 'Do you know how precious you are? Every conversation, she'd say, 'I love you.' The way I was brought up, nobody ever used words like 'I love you.' I just wanted to take care of her. I was so looking forward to have her visit me out here. I wanted to take her shopping, because she was so appreciative of everything she was given."

Streisand recalls attending Kelley's funeral and feeling tremendously moved by the gospel song "On Holy Ground." At that sad moment, Streisand vowed to create her own memorial to Kelley, a record album of songs with religious themes. The recording, "Higher Ground," is being released by Sony and reflects some of Streisand's new-found optimism. The album is dedicated to Kelley, but also to "J.B., for giving me the love I sing about."

Has Streisand ever wondered what her life might have been like if she had actually had a mother as uncritically loving as Kelley?

She takes a long breath. "Either I would have become president or a very happy Long Island housewife with no artistic ambitions and no need to express herself beyond children and a house. One or the other."

## SHAKESPEARE TREK

## Patrick Stewart: Making a Break With the Space Suit

By David Richards  
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — Patrick Stewart knows what it's like to want to kill someone. Like all of us, he says, he has experienced his share of murderous thoughts. But this particular morning, with sunlight pouring cheerfully through the window, he's trying to figure out what goes on in a killer's head after he has committed the deed. What does it feel like to have murdered?

"It's much easier to know the pre-experience, I think," he said in a sonorous voice that sounds like thunder dipped in honey. "But obviously I've never murdered anybody. I haven't even done much murdering onstage. Just battle scenes and sword fights — and that is all kind of silly."

The man with the gleaming ovoid pate, known the world over as Jean-Luc Picard in the syndicated TV series "Star Trek: The Next Generation," was poised to take on the title role in "Othello," which begins performances at the Shakespeare Theatre in Washington next week. It's one of the theater's most demanding roles — an impossibly high hurdle, he believes, that separates the great actors from the near-greats — and he was feeling the pressure.

A self-confessed addict for research, Stewart has been grilling psychologists about violence and obsession. He has been reading scholarly treatises like the one that sits on the coffee table before him, "Shakespeare as Promoter: The Amending Imagination and the Therapeutic Process." He's even hoping to pick up a few pointers from author John Douglas, who profiles serial killers for the FBI. "He looks for clues on the murder scene," Stewart explains. "So I'm going to give him the 'Othello' crime scene and ask him to do an analysis of it."

For all his apparent exhaustion, there is a curious elation to his mood. The night before, the 57-year-old actor had his first full run-through of Shakespeare's tragedy. It took six hours. He didn't get home until well past midnight and by then his mind was reeling.

But he'd finally had a real taste of what it was like to be Othello, a character he has yearned to portray since he was 14. For the first time, he had gone the full distance, from the exultation of love to the darkest reaches of jealousy and despair.

"You have to throw yourself at something like that," he says. "You can't hold back and can't say, 'I'll try that tomorrow.' It's got to be now. As I was coming home in the cab last night, my bones ached



Patrick Stewart will play the title role in "Othello."

and I was kind of licking my wounds. But I thought, 'You've actually done the role.' Granted, in a rehearsal room, and wearing jeans and a T-shirt, with substitute props and some actors still carrying scripts. But I'd done it. I'd gone from beginning to end."

According to the dictates of the times, Othello is not a role Stewart should be playing. The character, a Moor from North Africa, is the lone black in the opulent society of Venice. And Stewart, who was born in a tiny Yorkshire village, the son of a career soldier, is white. In another age, actors like Orson Welles and Laurence Olivier simply blackened their faces for the part. But in our post-civil rights era, that practice has been discredited.

"It does seem to be one of the few works where racial separation runs through the play as an absolute, consistent current," observed Jude Kelly, the British director who is staging the production at the Shakespeare Theatre. "To say that it doesn't matter who plays the role strikes me as a bit barny."

Stewart, in fact, had pretty much given up any dreams of portraying the tormented Moor. "I felt a certain irritation at having been caught in this bind of political correctness," he says. "But whenever I imagined myself grandiosely trying to take on the

characteristics of a North African, I thought, no, I can't do that."

Then, several years ago — he's not sure how — an idea struck. Couldn't the colors be reversed? What if Othello were white and the Venetian society that hails and then rejects him were black? Nothing about the work would have to be altered and the role could be his after all. From that brainstorm has since sprung what Kelly has dubbed a "photo negative" production.

"I don't think we're trying to make any more major a point than Shakespeare himself was trying to make," Kelly says. "We're just making it differently. What's fascinating for me is that you have 22 African American actors onstage who know what racism is about, and one white British actor who may know the effects of racism but has never experienced it the way they have. So the images of racial hostility flip back and forth. What it all means, I think, will depend very much on the color of the person who's watching."

For Stewart, Othello may be the boldest attempt yet "to step out of the space suit," as he puts it. He was a well-regarded member of the Royal Shakespeare Company when he landed in "Star Trek" in 1987. But seven years as Captain Picard have put his face in the world's pop culture gallery.

"For a lot of people, I will be locked for all time on the bridge of the Enterprise in my space suit," he said. "Not only am I reconciled to that, I'm quite proud of it."

Before the television series came to an end in 1994, however, Stewart had already set out to diversify his image. His first effort in 1991 was a one-man version of Dickens's "A Christmas Carol," in which he played 39 different characters on a bare Broadway stage — children, women, spirits and Scrooge. "I had a friend who said I actually played the goose at one moment, but I have no recollection of that," he noted dryly. He followed that tour de force by performing the aged Prospero in "The Tempest" at the New York Public Theatre, a production that also ended up on Broadway.

As a flamboyantly gay interior director in the motion picture "Jeffrey," he switched gears again, and his latest role, Captain Ahab, the crazed killer of white whales in a coming-four-hour TV miniseries of "Moby Dick," couldn't be further from the reaches of outer space.

"I guess the point has been made. I've put as much distance between me and that space suit as I can. Perhaps I can relax a little bit now," he said.

## PEOPLE

THE Mexican Nobel laureate Octavio Paz spoke on national television to deny rumors of his death. "The art of dying is the art of playing hide and seek," he said by telephone on Mexico's Televisa network. "It is one of the most delicate and difficult games, so you have to know how to play it well." The rumor of his death had been carried by a European news agency. "It pains me that those who insist on killing me are in such a hurry," the 83-year-old poet joked. Paz has been suffering from an undisclosed illness. He said that he was feeling better but that his disease was a "long and wretched" one. Mexican newspapers carried front-page stories on the incident, including one in the Mexico City daily La Jornada under the headline "Learn to Smile."

Paul McCartney's boyhood home will be open to the public next summer after a face-lift by the National Trust. Don't look for marble floors or gilded ceilings, says the trust, the keeper of some of the grandest homes in Britain. The small, two-story row house in Liverpool stands among similar unremarkable houses on Forthlin Road. The Beatles composed and practiced some of their earliest songs there until 1964, when the McCartneys moved out.

Kelly Preston has won a court order to keep away a man who wrote her a letter containing sexual innuendo and references to her husband, John Travolta. A judge in Miami ordered Joseph Cheffo 3d, an aspiring comedy writer, to stay 500 feet away from the actress despite his contention that the letter was a satirical joke that backfired. Preston testified that she broke into tears when she read the letter. Asked whether he would obey the order, Cheffo said, "Of course."

Steven Spielberg's studio says a novelist is trying to sink the movie "Amistad" with a bogus claim that DreamWorks SKG stole from her book about a slave ship rebellion. "This lady is essentially claiming she owns a piece of American history," said Bert Fields,



Astrid Lindgren and Birgitta Dahl in Stockholm.

an attorney for DreamWorks. Barbara Chase-Riboud is suing the studio for at least \$10 million, alleging that it lifted characters and scenes for the movie straight from her 1989 book "Echo of Lions." Like the novel, "Amistad" is based on a revolt on a Spanish slave ship in 1839. Fields said the screenplay was based on another book and was written with the help of numerous historians.

Astrid Lindgren, who wrote the children's classic "Pippi Longstocking," received a visit at her home in Stockholm from Birgitta Dahl, the speaker of the Swedish Parliament, to commemorate Lindgren's 90th birthday. The birthday itself was on Oct. 14, and Lindgren celebrated it privately.

Robert F. Kennedy Jr. and his wife, Mary Richardson, have a new son, William Finbar Kennedy. The baby is the couple's third child. Kennedy also has two children from his first marriage, to Emily Black.

Alfred Hitchcock has long been revered as an innovative genius in filmmaking, but few people recognize the contributions of his wife, Alma Reville, who worked with him on almost every aspect of his movies. Pat Hitchcock O'Connell, their only child, was determined to remedy that and honor both her parents, and she has created the Alma and Alfred Hitchcock Endowed Chair at the University of Southern California School of Cinema-Television.

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